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CONTENTS

INTRABLOC AFFAIRS

Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Meeting Opens *[Prague]* 1
Shevardnaze Assesses Shultz Talks *[CTK]* 1
Chnoupek Hosts Shevardnadze Lunch *[CTK]* 1
Jakes Receives Pact Envoys *[CTK]* 1
Jakes Addresses Participants *[Prague]* 2
ADN Carries 'Press Release' 2
CTK Reports 'Press Release' 3
PAP Reports on Pact Discussion 3
Prague TV Interviews Shevardnadze 4

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Bulgaria's Mladenov Interviewed on Meeting *[NIN No. 1937 14 Feb]* 5
Leaders Send Messages to Balkan Conference 7
Zhivkov Greets Participants *[BTA]* 7
Ceausescu Sends Message *[AGERPRES]* 7
Chnoupek Sends Greetings *[CTK]* 8
Foreign Ministers Conference Opens in Belgrade 8
Meeting Previewed *[TANJUG]* 8
Albania's Malile Arrives *[Tirana]* 8
Greece's Papoulias Arrives *[TANJUG]* 9
Bulgaria's Mladenov Arrives *[TANJUG]* 9
Turkey's Yilmaz Arrives *[TANJUG]* 9
Romania's Totu Arrives *[TANJUG]* 10
SFRY's Loncar Gives Dinner *[Belgrade]* 10
SFRY's Mojsov Receives Ministers *[TANJUG]* 10
Loncar Opens Meeting *[TANJUG]* 10
Mladenov Meets With Yilmaz *[Sofia]* 10
Mojsov Addresses Conference *[Belgrade]* 11
Mladenov Addresses Meeting *[TANJUG]* 13
Round Up of Morning Session *[TANJUG]* 13

BULGARIA

Mladenov Meets Turkey's Yilmaz in Belgrade 15
Further on Meeting 15
'Text' of Protocol 15
Protocol Called 'Good Sign' *[Khranov]* 16
Zhivkov Continues Talks With Papandreou 16
'Joint Announcement' 17
Departure Statement 17
Papandreou Departs 23 Feb 18
Leaders Attend USSR Army Attache Reception 18
Stanishev Receives Palestinian CP Delegation 18
Casualties at Borovets Hotel Fire Identified 18
Unrest Over Ruse Air Pollution *[LITERATUREN FRONT No 8/18 Feb]* 18

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Jakes Issues Order To Mark February Victory 21
CTK Reports Soviet Greetings on Anniversary 21
Indra Meets Soviet Budget, Planning Group 21

Jakes, Husak Attend USSR Army Day Reception 21
Vajnar Honors Fallen Soviet Heroes 21
Poland 'Retaliates' for Broken Contract *[MILADA FRONTA 17 Feb]* 22
Stefanak Examines Current Foreign Policy *[RUDE PRAVO 18 Feb]* 22

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

USSR To Begin Missile Withdrawal 25 Feb 27
U.S. Hypocrisy on Middle East Decried *[NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 20-21 Feb]* 27
Honecker, Leaders Honor Soviet Soldiers 27
Soviet Embassy Holds Reception 28

HUNGARY

Continued Reportage of Gromyko Visit 29
Nemeth, Gromyko Hold Talks 29
Meets With Kadar 29
Lays Wreath at Monument 29
Leaders Greet Soviet Officials on Anniversary 30
Karpati Cables USSR's Yazov on Army, Navy Day 30
Wreath-Laying Ceremony 30
Budapest Meeting 30
MSZMP's Miklos Nemeth Departs for FRG 30
Arrives in Bonn 30
Briefs 31
Libyan Bank Head Visits 31
Slovene Trade Official Visits 31

POLAND

India's Gandhi Receives Orzechowski 32
West Accused of 'Blurring' Truth About Jews 32
Sejm Delegation Visits FRG, Holds Talks 33
Italian Daily Cites Walesa on Reform Demands *[Milan L'UNITA 21 Feb]* 33
Lithuania Indignant at U.S. 'Interference' *[TRYBUNA LUDU 18 Feb]* 34
Leaders Visit Factories, Talk With Workers 34
Messner Visits Warsaw Cardiology Institute 35

ROMANIA

'Special Importance' Attached to Balkan Ties *[SCINTEIA 23 Feb]* 36
Festive Meeting Marks Soviet Army, Navy Day *[SCINTEIA 20 Feb]* 36
Andrei Attends Embassy Reception 37
Barbulescu Gives Agriculture Management Report *[SCINTEIA 18 Feb]* 37
David Speech to Plenum

YUGOSLAVIA

Officials, Media Preview Balkan Conference 41
Loncar Views 'Political Challenge' *[NIN 21 Feb]* 41
Radio Previews Ministerial Meeting 43
Press Welcomes 'Historic Event' 43
Sundic Comments on Shultz Visit to Moscow 44
Krsko Nuclear Power Plant Shuts Down 44

Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Meeting Opens

LD231225 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak
1200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The meeting of foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact member states opened in the Cernin Palace, the seat of the Foreign Ministry, in Prague at noon. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, will give a briefing about the results of the talks in Moscow between representatives of the Soviet Union and George Schultz, the U.S. secretary of state, and about prospects in Soviet-U.S. relations.

The meeting is being attended by Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria; Bohuslav Chnoupek, minister of foreign affairs of the CSSR; Gyula Horn, state secretary for foreign affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic; Herbert Krolikowski, state secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the GDR, Henryk Jaroszek, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Polish People's Republic, Ioan Totu, minister of foreign affairs of the SR of Romania, and Eduard Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR.

Shevardnaze Assesses Shultz Talks

LD231736 Prague CTK in English
1318 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 23 (CTK)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met his Warsaw Treaty colleagues in Prague today to brief them on the talks held in Moscow earlier this week by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Attending the meeting are Foreign Ministers Petur Mladenov of Bulgaria, Bohuslav Chnoupek of Czechoslovakia and Ioan Totu of Romania, and Deputy Foreign Ministers Herbert Krolikowski of the German Democratic Republic, Gyula Horn of Hungary and Henryk Jaroszek of Poland.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze extensively informed the participants in the meeting with the results of the Soviet-U.S. talks held in Moscow in the past few days, Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry Spokesman Dusan Rovensky told CTK here today.

The Prague meeting of the Warsaw Treaty foreign ministers, its frank atmosphere and exchange of views as well as the thorough information about the course of the Moscow dialogue prove the further deepening of the cooperation of the Warsaw Treaty member states in the creation and implementation of their foreign policy.

The significance of the Prague meeting rests in the fact that it is taking place at the time of the ratification process of the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles, of intensification of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue, at a time when positive possibilities of solving urgent international political problems occur and when the role of coordinated, joint actions of socialist countries on the international political field is increasing, Dusan Rovensky said.

Chnoupek Hosts Shevardnadze Lunch

LD231906 Prague CTK in English
1830 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 23 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek gave a luncheon here today in honour of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the other participants in the meeting of Warsaw Treaty member states' foreign ministers.

On this occasion Bohuslav Chnoupek stressed the significance of the meeting and appreciated the spirit in which it was held, saying it contributes to improving the exchange of information between the Warsaw Treaty countries. He thanked Eduard Shevardnadze for his information on the results of his talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

The Soviet foreign minister thanked the fraternal socialist countries for their support for the Soviet efforts aimed at the strengthening of peace and security in the world and the implementation of the principles of new political thinking in international relations.

Jakes Receives Pact Envoys

LD231908 Prague CTK in English
1847 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 23 (CTK)—The participants in a one-day meeting of the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Treaty member states were received by General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Milos Jakes here today.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze informed the Czechoslovak party leader of the course of the ministers' meeting.

Milos Jakes pointed out the fact that the Warsaw Treaty ministers' meeting took place immediately after the meeting in Moscow between the Soviet and U.S. foreign ministers, which is a proof of the growing intensity of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue. He stressed that progress in Soviet-U.S. relations considerably helps create a more favourable atmosphere in international relations.

Milos Jakes said inter alia that the signing of the INF treaty creates conditions for achieving agreement on a radical cut in strategic nuclear weapons and therefore Czechoslovakia, just as the majority of countries on this planet, expects this historical document to be ratified as soon as possible.

Milos Jakes stressed that in laying down and pursuing its policy, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia uses extensively the experiences of the Soviet Communist Party which was the first to embark on the path of

restructuring and speeding up its development and has achieved significant results. The experiences of the other fraternal parties and countries are also a valuable source of instruction for Czechoslovakia, he said.

Jakes Addresses Participants

LD232144 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, received today the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact member states. Present were Comrades Vasil Bilak and Bohuslav Chnoupek. Those received included Petur Mladenov, Bulgarian foreign minister; Gyula Horn, Hungarian state secretary of the foreign ministry; Herbert Krolikowski, GDR state secretary of the foreign ministry; Henryk Jaroszek, Polish deputy foreign minister; Ioan Totu, Romanian foreign minister; and Eduard Shevardnadze, Soviet foreign minister.

Comrade Shevardnadze briefed those present on the progress of the ministerial meeting and stressed that it represents a continuation in the good tradition of a good level of information between the Warsaw Pact member states on knowledge of and approaches to the most important current foreign political questions.

Comrade Milos Jakes highly praised the fact that the ministerial meeting took place immediately after the talks between the U.S. and USSR foreign ministers. This is evidence of the necessary growing dynamism and matter-of-fact manner of the dialogue between the two states, which is helping not only to develop bilateral contacts, but above all, to solve the most pressing present tasks, the effort to halt the arms race, and disarmament. The progress in relations between the USSR and the United States is contributing in a significant degree toward creating a more favorable atmosphere in international relations, and toward expanding positive trends in relations between states with differing social systems.

Comrade Jakes expressed the conviction that the signing of the treaty on medium-and-shorter-range missiles is creating basic prerequisites toward achieving an agreement on the radical reduction of the strategic nuclear potential of the two superpowers, while strictly adhering to the ABM treaty. Czechoslovakia, just like the overwhelming majority of states in the international community, therefore expects an early ratification of this historical document. Milos Jakes said that Czechoslovakia, together with the other fraternal socialist countries, is taking an active part in the historical struggle of the forces of peace and progress, lastingly contributing toward strengthening the security of our continent and, by means of its initiatives, striving to strengthen trust, cooperation, and good neighborly relations in Central Europe.

In the next part of his address, Comrade Jakes briefed the ministers on the fulfilment of the conclusions of the 17th CPCZ Congress and the seventh session of the party's Central Committee. He stressed that the basic prerequisities for a successful implementation of the strategy of speeding up social and economic development is restructuring, whose central point is deepening socialist democracy. The effort at implementing the vast social transformations are connected with our development of the working peoples' activity in the interest of utilizing all accessible resources and reserves, fulfilling plan tasks for this year and for the entire 5-year plan. It is the current year, Milos Jakes said, during which our people are celebrating the 40th anniversary of victorious February, which gives examples of labor initiative and working peoples' dedication, which are evidence of their understanding and support of our party's policy. More efficient utilization of objective laws for the building of socialist society, Comrade Jakes continued, requires consistent implementation of the leading role of the party and strengthening its links with the people. The CPCZ, in determining and implementing its policy, is broadly using the experience of the CPSU, which was the first one to set out on the path of restructuring and speeding up, and which has achieved significant results. A valuable source of knowledge for us is also our knowledge of other fraternal parties and countries, Comrade Milos Jakes said.

ADN Carries 'Press Release'

LD231836 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1714 GMT 23 Feb 88

["Press Release on a Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Warsaw Pact States in Prague on 23 February 1988"—ADN headline]

[Text] Prague, 23 Feb (ADN)—A meeting of the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact states was held in Prague on 23 February 1988.

Taking part in the meeting were: Petur Mladenov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign affairs of the Bulgarian People's Republic; Gyula Horn, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and state secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic; Herbert Krolikowski, member of the SED Central Committee, state secretary and first deputy foreign minister of the GDR; Henryk Jaroszek, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Polish People's Republic; Ioan Totu, candidate of the member of the RCP Central Committee PEC and minister of foreign affairs of the SR of Romania; Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR; and Bohuslav Chnoupek, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the CSSR.

USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze briefed the participants in the meeting in detail on the course and the results of the negotiations with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, which took place in Moscow on 21 and 22 February 1988.

The heads of the allied fraternal countries' delegations expressed their appreciation of the USSR's approach in the negotiations with the United States in Moscow and also full support for the results achieved. They see the results of the negotiations as the start to preparations for the summit meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Moscow in the first half of this year.

The participants in the meeting stressed the need to intensify as quickly as possible the elaboration of an agreement on the reduction and limitation of the number of strategic offensive weapons and all the documents connected with this, so that it can be signed during the next top-level meeting in Moscow.

They welcomed the efforts to reach an agreement on the treaty on limiting antimissile systems on the basis of the formulations in the joint statement by the USSR and the United States of 10 December 1987. The participants in the meeting expressed their interest in progress in the complex negotiations, conducted stage-by-stage, between the USSR and the United States on a ban on nuclear weapons tests. They discussed the unsolved problems in stepping up the achievement of a global, comprehensive ban on chemical weapons under effective controls.

They discussed the situation at the Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting and spoke in favor of a speedier adoption of a mandate and the start of negotiations on the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe.

The participants in the meeting underscored the need to solve regional problems through political means.

They welcomed the intention to continue the regular dialogue between the USSR and the United States at the highest political level and to expand it to the military sphere.

The delegation chiefs were received by Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ.

The meeting of the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and comradely cooperation.

CTK Reports 'Press Release'

LD231951 Prague CTK in English
1937 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 23 (CTK)—The Warsaw Treaty foreign ministers appreciated the Soviet Union's line at the discussions with the U.S. delegation in Moscow and expressed full support for the results achieved, said a press release issued at the end of the ministers' one-day meeting tonight.

The meeting was attended by Petur Mladenov, Politburo member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and foreign minister, Bohuslav Chnoupek, Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee member and foreign minister, Gyula Horn, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Central Committee and state secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Herbert Krolikowski, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee, state secretary and first deputy foreign minister, Henryk Jaroszek, Polish deputy foreign minsiter, Ioan Totu, alternate member of the Political Executive Committee of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee and foreign minister and Eduard Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and foreign minister.

Eduard Shevardnadze briefed the participants in detail on the course and results of the discussions with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Moscow on February 21-22. The press release said the ministers consider the results of the meeting the opening of the process of preparations for a summit meeting of General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Moscow in the first half of the year.

The Warsaw Treaty foreign ministers stressed the significance of intensifying preparations of a treaty on the reduction of the number of strategic offensive weapons to be ready for signing at the summit meeting in Moscow, and pointed out the significance of the Soviet-American comprehensive discussions on a ban on nuclear tests. They also reviewed unsolved problems preventing the achievement of a global comprehensive ban on chemical weapons under an effective control.

The participants in the meeting discussed also the situation at the Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting, and underlined the necessity to solve regional problems by political means. They called for the continuation of a regular Soviet-U.S. dialogue at a high political level and its expansion to the military sphere.

PAP Reports on Pact Discussion

LD240857 Warsaw PAP in English
2247 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Prague, Feb. 23—Foreign ministers of the states—parties to the Warsaw Treaty held a meeting here today at which Eduard Shevardnadze informed them on the course and results of the Soviet leaders's talks with U.S. State Secretary George Shultz.

The Polish side was represented at the meeting by vice-minister of foreign affairs Henryk Jaroszek.

A communique published after the meeting said that heads of the delegations expressed full support for the results attained during the Moscow talks. They consider

the results of the talks as a beginning of the process of preparations for Gorbachev's meeting with Reagan in Moscow in the first half of 1988.

The participants in the Prague meeting pointed to the necessity of the swiftest possible drafting of a treaty on reduction and curbing strategic offensive weapons and all the related documents in order to sign it during the Moscow summit.

The participants in the meeting welcomed the efforts aimed at achieving an agreement showed interest in a progress to be achieved in the overall Soviet-American talks on nuclear test ban.

Reviewed was also the situation at the CSCE meeting in Vienna. The ministers expressed themselves in favour of quickly entrusting a mandate and starting talks on the reduction of conventional armed forces and armaments in Europe.

The meeting emphasized the need to solve regional problems with political means.

The ministers welcomed with satisfaction the intention to continue a regular dialogue between the USSR and the U.S. at the highest political level and to expand it unto the military sphere.

Heads of the delegations were received by CPCZ General Secretary Milos Jakes.

Prague TV Interviews Shevardnadze

LD232000 Prague Television Service in Czech 1830 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR minister of foreign affairs, in Prague on 23 February, by unidentified interviewer; questions and answers in Russian with superimposed Czech translation]

[Text] [Interviewer] Good evening Comrade Minister Shevardnadze, could you say a few words to Czechoslovak television before your departure? It is clear from the communique that you have briefed your colleagues from the Warsaw Pact countries on your talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Is there a realistic hope that the document on the 50 percent reduction of strategic offensive weapons will be ready before the start of President Reagan's visit to the Soviet Union, and have any parts of this document been formulated in Geneva yet?

[Shevardnadze] I told my colleagues and friends and also Comrade Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, that we have arrived at the conclusion that there indeed exists a realistic chance to conclude the treaty on the 50 percent reduction of strategic offensive arms in conditions of preserving the antimissile defense treaty. The chance exists, but it all depends on the dynamics and the sincere wish of the U.S. Administration to prepare such a treaty before the start of the U.S. President's visit to the Soviet Union.

As I have this opportunity to speak on television—I must make use of this opportunity—I would like to cordially greet all the television viewers, all the citizens of our fraternal country Czechoslovakia, and wish them all the best on the occasion of the forthcoming great holiday—the 40th anniversary of the February revolution, the great event, the great national holiday, I would say, our common international holiday. Much has been achieved, great results have been achieved. I would like to congratulate from my heart to my friends, our brothers on their success in the building of socialism. I would also like to stress the special importance of the events which are taking place in the life of your society—these are the processes of restructuring, the restructuring of the national economy and of social life, too. This is quite a natural process, characteristic for a socialist society. I wish you many successes in this historic affair.

[Interviewer] Thank you, but allow me one more question concerning Afghanistan. Did U.S. Secretary of State Shultz express readiness for the United States to end the supplies of arms to the dushmans by 15 May, that is, by the date of the start of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan?

[Shevardnadze] This is a complex question. In any matter there are priorities, and with regard to the Afghan settlement, it is well known that we have adopted a political decision on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. We have given the dates too, and all this now has to be formulated at the talks in Geneva. The basic documents hae been agreed there and the corresponding obligations of the United States, which also plays the role of guarantor of noninterference in internal affairs of Afghanistan, have been set. We think that the Americans will have to keep their word. In any case, the U.S. secretary of state has said so.

[Interviewer] Thank you very much for the interview. Good bye.

Bulgaria's Mladenov Interviewed on Meeting

AU211545 Belgrade NIN in Serbo-Croatian
No. 1937 14 Feb 88

[Interview with Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, by Jug Grizelj, in Sofia—date not given]

[Text] Despite many obligations, which involved preparations for the forthcoming Balkan meeting, Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, kindly agreed to a request by NIN to talk to our journalist. Comrade Mladenov received the NIN correspondent in the congress hall during the party conference in which he was actively participating as Politburo member.

[Grizelj] This will be the first Balkan conference whose participants will be senior representatives of all the countries of the region. How do you explain this?

[Mladenov] This is primarily because of the increasing political will and conviction of the governments and people of the region that, in the conditions of the nuclear age and an interlinked world, the only promising way to the future is peaceful coexistence and equal and good-neighborly cooperation.

In the second half of the eighties, an East-West dialogue has now been visibly activated to deal with the most important problems for humanity: disarmament, the solving of contentious questions by peaceful means, and the strengthening of mutual trust and of joint security. Our region cannot stand apart from this dominant trend in international relations. The new political attitude clears its way through the Balkans, too. In recent years, a string of positive trends have been perceptible, quite apart from the fact that here we can talk about a microcosmos of states which either belong to different military-political alliances or are nonaligned. A political dialogue is beginning which is expressed in ideas and proposals on turning the Balkans into a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons, on creating an agreed system of security and good-neighborliness, and on solving ecological and other problems, all of which has met with the wide support of the public. It seems to me that at this moment the principle of mutual dependency in contemporary politics urges us most of all to enter into dialogue and cooperation. This is why all the Balkan governments accepted Yugoslavia's kind invitation. It is our wish that the Belgrade meeting marks the beginning of a constant dialogue on questions of mutual interest for all the Balkan states.

[Grizelj] Why has such a conference not been held earlier?

[Mladenov] I referred to this in my first answer. In order not to repeat myself, I want to emphasize that positive tendencies now dominate in the Balkans as a whole. Active political, economic, and cultural relations exist among most Balkan countries. A solid international legal base is being built for these relations. There is a perceptible consolidation in the direction of our joint interests. This is why Comrade Raif Dizdarevic's initiative on the meeting in Belgrade was accepted with interest by all Balkan governments and peoples. This shows that at this very moment, under the condition of new dynamics in international life, our countries feel an objective need to carry out an overall review of multilateral cooperation in the region and to collectively look for ways and forms of activating and furthering that cooperation. Hence our responsibility for giving the meeting a constructive and constructive character and justifying the hopes invested in it.

[Grizelj] What do you expect from the meeting?

[Mladenov] I expect substantial talks of mutual interest for Balkan countries and peoples. I would like to believe that the negotiations will be dominated by the spirit of understanding and mutual respect which is characteristic of sovereign states and good neighbors.

In our opinion it is natural to give priority to the problems of security and confidence, to examine Balkan aspects of disarmament, and to establish joint initiatives which would further our countries' role within the general European process. Our countries' historical traditions, geographical closeness, and their infrastractures create conditions for activating economic and scientific-technological cooperation and connections in trade, transportation, communications, tourism, etc, i.e. for intensifying processes of integration and cooperation between Balkan states.

Such an approach would help us overcome the gap separating us from developed countries more quickly and to join the international division of labor more actively. Ecological problems are of exceptional current importance for all of us. I hope that the initial achievements of the meeting of Balkan governments' ecological experts held in Sofia recently will meet with support and will be further developed at the forthcoming Belgrade meeting. It is also our wish to examine the opportunities for more intensive development of humanitarian connections (humanitarne veze). I believe that all my colleagues will come to Belgrade with good and constructive ideas which we will examine in a calm atmosphere so that the meeting may be crowned with success. The meeting offers us a good chance.

[Grizelj] The Balkans were given various names in the past such as "a powder keg," "the appendage of Europe," etc. What would you say about the Balkans today?

[Mladenov] These derogatory names contain a negative political characteristic of relations between Balkan states. History has not left the best kind of heritage. As is known, slavery lasted several centuries in this region, until the beginning of this century. National and foreign interests clashed. Bloody wars were waged and other

peoples' territories were grabbed in consequence, and chauvinism and hatred escalated. Even when one gets acquainted only with literature and folklore of Balkan peoples, one becomes aware of the sad vestiges of the past. However, I would like to stress that along with all this, there are deep and sometimes invisible links of solidarity and mutual assistance connecting Balkan peoples in their struggle for national independence and state sovereignty. The brightest minds of Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia, Albania, Greece, and Turkey fought for Balkan unity and understanding. Their example is a good legacy left to the posterity. The active and constructive Balkan policy of the BCP and our state follows this very direction and is in harmony with the Helsinki spirit.

Our assessment of the present situation on the Balkans could be succinctly put as follows: There exist stabilizing forces here with great potential and it is mostly to them that we owe the relatively calm postwar situation in the region. There are more and more people who are aware of the lack of prospects for military confrontation and a hegemonic policy from positions of force. The economic, scientific-technological, and intellectual resources of our region are increasing. Its international reputation and significance are growing. There are some destabilizing factors, too, and we bear them in mind. It is not a secret that as a result of the activity of certain circles whose thoughts follow the criteria of past times and who fail to take reality into consideration, the situation in the Balkans becomes aggravated from time to time and peace is exposed to test.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria is filled with resolution that it shall keep to its consistent course in the future, too: to work actively for improving the situation, strengthening confidence and good-neighborliness, and expanding and advancing cooperation on the basis of noninterference in internal affairs of states and a strict respect for their national independence and sovereignty. I believe that the Belgrade meeting may make a significant contribution in this respect.

[Grizelj] What has changed in the Balkans recently?

[Mladenov] A characteristic trend in the relations among the Balkan Peninsula countries in the past few years has been manifested in the position that political realities impose on us that we should search for ways to enhance what draws us together, that we should overcome the stereotypes from the "cold war" period, and that we should strengthen confidence and mutually beneficial cooperation. Much effort has been invested in this respect. What is more, some political steps are turning into a unique standard for a new, untraditional political thinking. This is what characterizes the initiatives of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the SR of Romania to free the Balkans of chemical weapons, the signing the Bulgarian-Greek political declaration, and the very initiative by the SFRY for the meeting of foreign ministers of Balkan countries, proposals in the field of ecology, and so forth. Of course these are the first sprouts. Whether they will grow deep and lasting roots will, in my opinion, depend on the political will of the Balkan governments and peoples to permanently direct the development of their multilateral and bilateral cooperation to the channels of friendship, confidence, and good-neighborliness.

[Grizelj] To what extent are the Balkans and Europe tied together, to what extent are the Balkans integrated in Europe, to what extent do the Balkans influence the climate in Europe, and vice versa?

[Mladenov] As is known, the Balkans are part of Europe. They are not a closed region, an independent system, or some separate political group. They are linked in many ways with various countries, social systems, and political and military alliances. To a great extent they reflect the basic features of the contemporary European and world structure and situation. Various interests meet, intersect, or affect each other in our peninsula. This is why the spirit of the general European situation influences the political relations in the Balkans. On the other hand, of course, the Balkans are in a certain sense relatively independent as a region with historically conditioned mutual relations, which makes it possible for the states to influence, independently or jointly, the general European climate and international situation.

The majority of the Balkan states have actively participated in the European process begun in Helsinki. Their contribution to the successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference on Security and Confidence Building Measures has a general European dimension. The Balkan states have become authors or co-authors of a string of proposals made during the Vienna meeting. The agreement on elimination of intermediate and shorter-range missiles signed in Washington by M.S. Gorbachev and R. Reagan has met with great support in the Balkans. The ideas about freeing the Balkans of nuclear and chemical weapons, about ecological protection of the region, the signing of a good-neighborliness code, the strengthening of economic, transportation, and tourist links are in harmony with the joint efforts to improve the situation and enhance the integration processes in Europe.

[Grizelj] What hampers better and comprehensive cooperation among Balkan countries?

[Mladenov] We look with optimism at the general Balkan cooperation. Perhaps it will be established that positive tendencies predominate. The best evidence is the forthcoming meeting in Belgrade.

As I have stressed, some difficulties exist, and they have arisen because of the historic burdens and the negative vestiges of the past that have not been overcome. The situation in the Balkans is also getting complicated because of the presence of nuclear and chemical weapons, and considerable quantities of conventional weapons. In certain cases, we are hampered by insufficient knowledge of our neighbors' potentials as paradoxical as

this may sound. Mostly, this refers to economic, scientific-technical, and other spheres of cooperation. The forms of our mutual links are also lagging. Even greater opportunities exist in the sphere of spiritual exchanges, modern communications, cooperation in the sphere of tourism, and so forth.

Our people are being brought up in the spirit of internationalism, friendship, and good-neighborliness. This cultivates great respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty, and national independence of each of the Balkan states. This principle is at the basis of our Constitution. Comrade Todor Zhivkov, leader of our state, has confirmed this on many occasions at the highest European and world forums.

[Grizelj] How do you see the place and the role of your country in the Balkans and beyond?

[Mladenov] The People's Republic of Bulgaria attaches prime importance to its Balkan policy. Our country, which lies at the center of the Balkan Peninsula, is vitally interested in the protection of peace, strengthening of confidence and security, and the development of mutually beneficial cooperation. The policy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the Balkans is guided by principles and is consistent, it is free of any opportunistic approach [konjunkturni pristup] and egoistic national interests.

I hope that the readers of NIN know about the process of restructuring in our country. Its aim is that Bulgaria should enter the 21st century as a developed and cultured socialist state. We can achieve this under conditions of international stability and collective security. Our country is prepared for joint actions and political initiatives of joint interest, and for an application of more modern forms and an activation of mutually beneficial cooperation in the region. In conclusion I wish to express my hope that that talks of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries in Belgrade will offer an opportunity for better manifestation of mutual interests, a drawing together of the positions, and further development of cooperation in all the fields, in the interest of the Balkan peoples, and of peace and security in the Balkans, in Europe, and in the world.

Leaders Send Messages to Balkan Conference

Zhivkov Greets Participants

AU231910 Sofia BTA in English
1849 GMT 23 Feb 88

["T. Zhivkov's Greetings Address to Participants in Belgrade Meeting"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 23 (BTA)—The greetings address of Mr Todor Zhivkov, president of the State Council of Bulgaria, to the participants in the first meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan countries stresses the high assessment which Bulgaria's state leadership gives to this Yugoslav initiative.

I would like to express our belief that a meaningful dialogue will be held in Belgrade on a wide range of issues of all-Balkan cooperation which are of mutual interest, Mr Todor Zhivkov points out.

The meeting is taking place in dynamic times when Europe and the world are seeking new ways to promoting and adding to international cooperation in all its aspects, for saving mankind from the nuclear catastrophe threatening it. The conviction that the Balkan countries can also break up the stereotypes of the past and direct their attention to those issues which bring them closer is taking ever greater hold, the greetings address reads.

The Belgrade forum will give a strong impetus to consolidating trust and the spirit of good-neighborliness and to an active and fruitful cooperation in the economy, in culture and in the socio-humanitarian sphere, Mr Todor Zhivkov stresses. I am convinced that this impetus will be a contribution to all-Balkan dialogue for building the "Balkan floor" of our European home with joint efforts.

Bulgaria will always be a persevering champion for clear skies over the Balkan, for promoting friendship and good neighborliness among the Balkan states and for consolidating peace, security and all-round cooperation in the region, in Europe and in the world.

Ceausescu Sends Message

AU241139 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1112 GMT 24 Feb 88

["Message by President Nicolae Ceausescu to Participants in Meeting of Balkan Foreign Ministers"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 24-02-1988—I am very pleased to address the ministers and all participants in the meeting of Balkan foreign ministers a warm friendly salute and best wishes of full success in the proceedings of this important international meeting.

Romania was and is for the establishment of a lasting climate of understanding and broad collaboration in the Balkans, for the transformation of this region in a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons and of military bases and foreign troops, as a mighty important contribution to the building of a durable system of security and cooperation in Europe and the world over. To this end, our country has consistently worked for the development of bi- and multilateral cooperation in the Balkans, took numerous actions and advanced a number of proposals regarding the strengthening of peace, good neighbourhood, confidence and collaboration among all countries in this region, on the basis of the principles of equality,

observance of national independence and sovereignty, non-interference in home affairs and mutual advantage, of each nation's right to develop freely, according to its own will and aspirations.

Considering all this, I assess the organization and unfolding in good conditions of the current meeting of Balkan foreign ministers will have a positive influence on the development of relations among our countries, on the consolidation of confidence and cooperation in this area, will provide conditions for the fine preparation and organization of a Balkan summit conference. I believe that the organization of the current meeting of foreign ministers, attended by all countries in the area, will have to be, throughout, a strong expression of our peoples' political will, spirit of collaboration and dialogue, aspirations at peace and progress.

Consistent with this policy, Romania maintains that it is high time to organize a conference or meeting of Balkan heads of state and government to debate problems of this region. In our view, such a summit would have a crucial role in promoting ways to strengthen confidence, manifold collaboration and friendship among all nations and peoples in this region, would boost actions for the transformation of the Balkans into a zone of peace and cooperation, would be an important positive event in the life of the European continent, in the struggle for security, cooperation and peace the world over.

Romania attends the meeting inspired by the sincere wish to do its best and contribute to the constructive unfolding of this meeting, to finding new ways and means to expand the collaboration among Balkans countries, by broadening economic, technico-scientific, cultural, environmental collaboration, as well as in other domains of mutual interest, confident that by all participants' concerted efforts, positive results will be obtained, which would help develop links among Balkan countries, open new prospects to the struggle for the establishment in this region, so troubled in the past, of a lasting climate of trust and security, of collaboration and peace.

Chnoupek Sends Greetings

LD231739 Prague CTK in English
1528 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 23 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek sent today a message of greetings to participants in the Belgrade meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers, opening tomorrow.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic welcomes and supports the meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers which makes it possible to freely exchange opinions and shows new prospects for a joint search for the most suitable road towards the strengthening of confidence, security and deepening of cooperation in the Balkans, the message said, pointing out the fact all states of the area are taking part.

The Czechoslovak foreign policy supports all efforts aimed at the deepening of friendship and confidence among nations and expansion of detente, Bohuslav Chnoupek stressed.

The convocation of the conference of the Balkan foreign ministers is significant not only for the area but for the world, the message pointed out.

Foreign Ministers Conference Opens in Belgrade

Meeting Previewed

LD232156 Belgrade TANJUG in English
2110 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 23 (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia wants conference of the Balkan countries foreign ministers in Belgrade to open prospects for comprehensive multilateral cooperation and strengthening of the spirit of good-neighbour relations and mutual trust, Assistant Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Milivoje Maksic told foreign journalists in Belgrade today.

The Balkan conference, from February 24 to 26, in which representatives of all Balkan countries (Albania, Romania, Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria) will participate for the first time, will be covered by 420 journalists, half of whom are from abroad.

Maksic stressed the importance of promoting economic cooperation of the Balkan countries in all fields where needs are common and interests coincide.

Yugoslavia would be very satisfied if the conference, whose initiator it is, would mark the beginning of regular meetings of the Balkan countries foreign ministers and give an impetus to settling bilateral problems inherited from the past, Maksic added.

Pointing out that in preparations for the Balkan conference good will has been manifested for its successful outcome, Maksic said that the constructive spirit also characterized first unofficial meetings conducted today between Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar and his colleagues from the other Balkan countries.

Albania's Malile Arrives

AU231545 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian
1430 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Alfons Gurashi dispatch from Belgrade on arrival of Foreign Minister Reis Malile for the Balkan foreign ministers' conference]

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Reis Malile, has arrived in Belgrade. Dispatch by our special correspondent, Alfons Gurashi, over the telephone line:

Reis Malile, minister of foreign affairs of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, today arrived in Belgrade to participate in the meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan countries, which will hold its proceedings here from 24-26 February. He was received at Belgrade Airport by Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs of the SFRY; Ilija Djukic, assistant federal secretary for foreign affairs; and by Novak Pribicevic, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SFRY in Albania. Kujtim Hyseni, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania in Yugoslavia, was also present.

Answering questions put to him by foreign correspondents at Belgrade Airport, Minister of Foreign Affairs Reis Malile declared, among other things, that the meeting of foreign ministers of the Balkan countries that will open tomorrow constitutes a positive development in our region. The minister added that it is a positive sign that the Balkan countries saw fit, indeed deemed it necessary, to meet and to discuss problems of common interest. This shows that the peoples and countries of our region have fundamental interests uniting them, which are related to their free and independent development.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Reis Malile declared that Albania's delegation has come to the Belgrade conference of foreign ministers with sincere wishes and goodwill, and with the intention of making Albania's contribution in creating a spirit of trust and understanding, which is so necessary for the development of cooperation between the peoples and countries of our region. We hope and wish—he declared—that the meeting will help to create a climate for progress, fruitful bilateral and multilateral Balkan cooperation, and that it will serve the cause of peace and stability in our region and beyond.

In conclusion, Comrade Reis Malile pointed out that during his stay in Belgrade he will meet and talk with Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs of the SFRY, about the development of good-neighborly relations between the two countries. He will also hold talks with the other Balkan foreign ministers.

Welcoming Reis Malile, Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, said that Yugoslavia will do everything possible to ensure the success of the Belgrade meeting. As hosts, we will strive to create the impression among all participants that this is our joint meeting, and that the participants will leave with the conviction that everyone has gained something from the meeting for his own country, as well as for the Balkans as a whole, he stated.

On its way to Belgrade, the delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, led by Comrade Reis Malile, was received in Titograd by the republican secretary of finances of Montenegro, Branislav Ivikovic [name and title as heard]; Ratko Ivanovic, president of the city assembly, and others.

Greece's Papoulias Arrives

LD231649 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1217 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Feb (TANJUG)—We come to Belgrade with much hope and a declaration that is not only mine but is also that of other foreign ministers of the Balkan countries to gather here at a meeting of historical importance.

This was stressed today in a brief statement to TANJUG and Belgrade Television by Karolos Papoulias, Greek minister of foreign affairs, who will lead the Greek delegation at the forthcoming Balkan meeting in Belgrade.

Papoulias said that on the eve of the meeting he notes our desire for the meeting to really succeed. I believe that the success of the Belgrade meeting will represent a new chapter, and a new course in inter-Balkan relations, Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister, concluded.

Karolos Papoulias was welcomed at Belgrade Airport by Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs.

Bulgaria's Mladenov Arrives

LD231714 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1619 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Feb (TANJUG)—I am coming to Belgrade conscious of my responsibility, and the same responsibility lies on the shoulders of all the other participants in the Belgrade meeting as well, the responsibility for determining how the outcome of our meeting will be, said Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Petur Mladenov this afternoon at Belgrade airport.

I believe that our meeting will end well, and I can say that the Bulgarian delegation will do everything that it can to ensure that the meeting in Belgrade gives results, that it is useful and represents a serious contribution to our good-neighborliness, Mladenov added.

The Bulgarian foreign minister added in a statement to TANJUG and Belgrade television that he considers the Belgrade meeting an event that is not only important for the situation in the Balkans, but is also an event that could have a far greater influence.

Turkey's Yilmaz Arrives

LD231527 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1203 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, February 23 (TANJUG)—"I welcome Yugoslavia's initiative for holding the meeting of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers," Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz stated on arrival here this morning.

Yilmaz noted the importance of the impending meeting and stressed that Turkey is an old champion of cooperation in the Balkans.

He also expressed the view that present East-West relations contribute to the creation of a more favourable climate, and thus to more diverse cooperation in the Balkans.

Yilmaz stressed the need for constructive action at the Belgrade meeting and said that Turkey "will welcome all constructive intiatives and ideas for the most comprehensive cooperation among the Balkan countries."

"The Helsinki concluding document, with all its aspects and humanitarian meaning, should be used as a source of inspiration for this Balkan meeting, and the Turkish delegation is pleased to be again here—ten years after the first successful meeting held also in Belgrade to monitor the implementation of the Helsinki decisions," said Yilmaz.

Romania's Totu Arrives

LD232157 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2119 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Feb (TANJUG)—Ioan Totu, Romanian minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Belgrade this evening for tomorrow's meeting of the six Balkan countries.

In a short statement for the press Minister Totu said he is very satisfied that such a meeting has come about, and expressed hope that the results too will be satisfactory. This is the first time that representatives of all the Balkan countries have gathered together and that in itself is an event, said the Romanian foreign minister.

As far as I know, Totu added, all the ministers are coming with constructive proposals.

This evening, in the Intercontinental Hotel, Federal Secretary for Foreign affairs Budimir Loncar arranged a working dinner for the Balkan foreign ministers, during which further discussions were carried out in connection with tomorrow's meeting.

SFRY's Loncar Gives Dinner

AU232137 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] All the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries participating in the conference in Belgrade are already in the capital city. This evening they attended a dinner in the Intercontinental Hotel organized by Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, where the first informal talks are already being held.

SFRY's Mojsov Receives Ministers

LD241028 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0942 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade 24 Feb (TANJUG)—Immediately before the formal opening of the Balkan foreign ministers' conference, President of the SFRY Presidency Lazar Mojsov received the foreign ministers of the participating countries. In a short and warm meeting Lazar Mojsov conveyed his wishes to the foreign ministers of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey, and Yugoslavia that their work should be successful. The meeting was also attended by President of the Yugoslav Assembly Marjan Rozic, Vice President of the SFRY Presidency Dizdarevic, President of the FEC Branko Mikulic, and President of the SAWP Federal Conference Milojko Drulovic.

Loncar Opens Meeting

LD241005 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0933 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Feb (TANJUG)—The Balkans belong to the Balkan countries, and I am convinced that at this meeting these countries, which are conscious of their roles and of the imperatives of the times, will involve themselves more resolutely in the development of all-around mutual cooperation, said Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY Presidency. He said this, among other things, when greeting the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries who are gathered today in the Sava Center in Belgrade for the first Balkan ministerial meeting.

Today's meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries was opened by the host, Yugoslav Federal Secretary Budimir Loncar. Immediately after the words of greeting from President of the SFRY Presidency Lazar Mojsov, the meeting continued its work with a plenary session. The agenda envisages that all the ministers will speak today, in alphabetical order.

Mladenov Meets With Yilmaz

AU241047 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Martin Minkov, special Belgrade correspondent, reports on opening of Balkan foreign minister's conference being held in Belgrade on 24 February 1988]

[Text] The first meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs from the six neighboring countries in the postwar history of the Balkans opened this morning, only one-half hour ago, at the Belgrade Sava center, from which I am now broadcasting.

The meeting was opened by Budomir Loncar, federal secretary of foreign affairs of the SFRY, who welcomed the ministers of foreign affairs of Albania, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, and Turkey.

At this moment, Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY Federal Pesidency, is addressing the conference.

This morning a new meeting took place at the Intercontinental Hotel between Petur Mladenov, our country's minister of foreign affairs, and Mesut Yilmaz, Turkish minister of foreign affairs.

The meeting proceeded in a constructive spirit based on the principles laid down in the document signed yesterday. According to the agreements reached today, it is expected that the Commission on Political Questions that has been established will hold a session in Sofia in mid-May, while the Commission on Economic Problems will have a meeting in Ankara. A schedule on a mutual exchange of visits between the two ministers of foreign affairs is also being agreed upon.

The first session of the Belgrade meeting continues at Sava center. Today all ministers of foreign affairs of the 6 neighboring countries will deliver speeches.

Mojsov Addresses Conference

AU241250 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0935 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Your excellencies, foreign ministers, eminent friends, comrades: The SFRY and its capital city of Belgrade have been given the great honor of being able to offer their hospitality to the meeting of foreign ministers from the Balkan countries. This is the first such meeting in the history of international relations and inter-Balkan cooperation with the foreign ministers of all the countries of our peninsula participating. On behalf of the SFRY Presidency, I give you all a warm welcome.

I greet you as the eminent representatives of the countries and peoples that history has made neighbors in the course of many centuries. This has unavoidably directed you toward mutual existence in the same region. It has been shown throughout the centuries that the Balkan portion of southern Europe has always taken part in the exceptionally important events that have left their stamp on the history of the European continent. This has left indelible traces in the creation and course of the whole of our civilization today.

Perhaps nowhere else but in the Balkans is it so obvious that different civilizations, cultures, religions, peoples, and corresponding historical formations and sociopolitical systems have left their marks and spirit. During the course of history, many painful clashes have come from these differences, even up to the threshold of today. However, we do not consider this the moment to return to history. We have learned from its messages. With this experience and with our readiness to rise above the burdens that every history unavoidably brings, we would like to look to the future in order to overcome these burdens more easily. We must be convinced that the future primarily depends on ourselves.

We should turn even the negative heritage that history has left us into new links of rapprochement and equal cooperation. This should happen through mutual efforts and active involvement, relying primarily on the rich tradition of the joint aspirations of all our peoples in the past.

I am therefore convinced that the work of this meeting will be inspired by the determination of all participants from the Balkan countries—conscious of their role and the imperatives of the time—to be more actively involved in comprehensive, universal, and mutual multilateral and bilateral cooperation. In this way, they will contribute in a confident way to individual and mutual security, peace, calm, joint life, quick comprehensive development, and prosperity for all the peoples in this region.

We are not faced with (?the need) to now search for fundamentals and establish the principles for the creation of such an important aim. They are the same for the entire international community, but especially important for our region of the Balkans because of all its diversities.

These are the unavoidable tenets on which modern international law is based. These tenets call for strict mutual respect for the spirit and letter of the basic principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and other great historical documents of this organization and in the final act of the CSCE. These guarantee to every country, people, and individual the equal legitimate right to live in complete freedom, equality, and dignity, with all human rights, irrespective of national, religious, linguistic, and other differences. In saying so, I have in mind, above all, the established contemporary international principles—respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, noninterference, the right to freedom in choosing the form of one's own development, and to equal international cooperation. In this we see the irreplaceable basis of mutual trust everywhere in the world. This is the fundamental prerequisite for the cooperation that is so necessary for us in this world that again finds itself at a historical crossroads. I say with great conviction that there is no greater priority for the Balkans, for all the peoples and countries of the Balkans, than the knowledge that we stand before the only acceptable alternative—broad, diverse, equal cooperation in all fields—will finally become our lasting mutual and permanently fruitful preoccupation.

Nowadays, on the threshold of the 21st century, international relations as a whole are faced with new and encouraging prospects, but also with new challenges. Now more than ever, new possibilities are appearing for active peaceful coexistence and cooperation, in peace and security for all, to prevail over the confrontations and different divisions and competition, which are linked to many dangers and uncertainties.

After over 40 years of a feverish race in suicidal armament and in stocking up and deploying arms, we now have the so-badly-needed and long-awaited beginning of the, we hope, irreversible process of nuclear disarmament. We believe that after the first initial, but historic step, other agreements will follow that will mark a further significant step in the reduction and elimination of the most destructive forms of armament. We also hope that the awareness will finally prevail that one cannot solve any disputes through war nor carry out policy from the position of force and domination. We also believe that this new historical trend will consolidate mutual confidence and strengthen the hope in a safe future in which we can all live in peace, cooperation, and common progress. The process of negotiations that has been begun along those new roads certainly creates a new atmosphere in overall world relations. However, in order to be possible and realistic, this process must encompass the democratization of international relations. It should start from the view that we are all neighbors on this planet and that all large problems affect everybody. In addition, we must understand that peace, security, prosperity, and development are impossible if they are only for some, if they are not part of a universal trend toward new aims, and if they do not imply the right and opportunity of all countries to participate in and influence the solutions to questions that are in their basic interests.

Europe is also standing before new challenges now. Each one of us also makes a direct contribution to more favorable trends on our continent, be it through CSCE activities or in other ways, but primarily by widening cooperation. Europe, being the largest arsenal of all kinds of weapons and a place where the existing divisions are particularly strongly stressed, shows by its own example that the common needs of all its peoples for security, cooperation, and progress are still stronger than the grave heritage of the past and all the divisions that ensued from it.

What is it that in light of all this we should say about ourselves in the Balkans? We are a part of the world that links continents, being an integral, but also sensitive part of Europe. In many ways, we are Europe on a smaller scale. It is precisely by its example in developing the broadest cooperation of various kinds that the Balkans are obliged, in this mission of rapprochement, to further stimulate and encourage these new efforts to establish peace, coexistence, and cooperation. We have to be aware of the fact that if we lagged behind in those positive processes, we would risk having the Balkans remain on the periphery, as an enclave of unsolved difficulties of the past and in slavery to inherited prejudices. This would provide a suitable territory for the competition of other interests alien to all Balkan peoples, instead of being a participant in creating its own and joint European, European-Mediterranean, and broader world advanced relations and progress.

The Balkans—we share this belief—belong to the Balkan countries and peoples. If we agree on the great interdependence in problems and on the new challenges that have been set for all countries in the world, then this interdependence and the mutual influences are all the greater and more emphasized. Historical development has left us differences, wounds, and scars, some of them deep. At the same time, those historical currents brought about great movements of peoples on this territory and linked them together. This circumstance represents the undeniable national, cultural, and civilizational wealth of the Balkans, and it must therefore become a great link and strong factor of contact and rapprochement among our peoples and countries in projecting a common happier future.

We are absolutely convinced that the Balkan countries, each one determining for itself in its own specific and valuable way, as well as for all of them together, are capable of meeting the challenge of our times, which also means the strivings and expectations of both old and young generations of all the peoples of the Balkans.

Your excellencies, dear comrades, the SFRY will strive to contribute as much as possible to such relations on this peninsula. As a nonaligned, European, and Mediterranean country in the Balkans, we are—by the very essence of our policy—already aligned toward the broadest cooperation with all countries. In addition, we highly value other countries' contributions to this cooperation and to better relations in general. Our initiative to hold this meeting and dialogue was inspired by this. This is how we view other countries' important initiatives that are directed toward enhancing security and comprehensive cooperation in the Balkans.

Dear friends, allow me to express our wish and expectation that this meeting will contribute to the creation of a new climate in the Balkans and that it will contribute to the strengthening of mutual trust and good-neighborly relations. I hope that the meeting will contribute to the further development of joint cooperation in all areas where, in the interests of everyone, it is possible and necessary. I also hope it will contribute to the affirmation of a permanent process of building and strengthening ties of friendship among the Balkan countries and to linking them with all other neighboring countries and peoples—no matter how close or far apart—and with Europe, the Mediterranean, and the world as a whole.

In this sense, the closer multilateral economic cooperation, as well as cooperation in transportation and communications, tourism, agriculture, power engineering, science and technology, health, ecology, culture, sport, athletics, and other areas that will develop from your ideas and initiatives are already in themselves of great importance to these noble aspirations toward achieving the generally desired goals of our mutual rapprochement. They will contribute to the ideals that were proclaimed by great minds from the Balkan peoples.

We are aware that reality is such that we cannot immediately set ourselves to great tasks, but we also do not need to deprive ourselves of or obscure this great vision. Great tasks, as well as the grandest visions, begin as small and sometimes very cautious steps. I am convinced that we all equally share the wish that small and large steps will both end in success.

On behalf of the SFRY Presidency, I express my best wishes for fruitful dialogues and useful results within the framework of this ministerial meeting and during your bilateral meetings, for which we have tried to create the best possible conditions.

I take advantage of this occasion to ask your excellencies—the foreign ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Greece, the SR of Romania, and the Republic of Turkey—to convey to the peoples and all citizens of the countries you represent our messages of good-neighborliness and friendship, and to convey our best wishes for comprehensive development.

Mladenov Addresses Meeting

LD241416 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1047 GMT 24 Feb 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 24 (TANJUG)—At the meeting of foreign ministers of Balkan countries, which opened here today, Bulgarian Minister Petur Mladenov called for holding regular meetings of this kind, not excluding the possibility of a summit.

We have gathered in this hall thanks primarily to the diplomatic activity of Yugoslavia, he said.

The meeting has become possible by virtue of the responsiveness and readiness for dialogue displayed by the Balkan states, Mladenov said.

Our meeting is carried out on the background of tangible changes in the world at large. The Soviet-American treaty signed on the eve of 1988 marks the beginning of the process of real disarmament, he said. Active efforts are made to promote cooperation and confidence within the framework of the all-European process, the Bulgarian minister said.

If they do not want to be condemned by history, or even by the morrow, our states, the Balkans cannot and should not remain indifferent to the historical chance which our epoch is offering, Mladenov stressed.

Mladenov reminded participants of the Bulgarian initiative to issue a joint document on the good-neighbourly relations among Balkan states.

We should not demand from our meeting to achieve everything, but we should rather see the prospects it is opening, he said.

The work we are setting to will not always run smoothly. There will be hardships and uncertainties. Yet we should not let them disappoint and demobilise us, Mladenov said.

There are no reasons, in our view, to prevent the ministerial meeting from becoming a tradition held regularly at fixed intervals, for instance, every other year in the capital cities alternatively, he said. If the requisite conditions are created, we stand also for a summit meeting, the Bulgarian minister concluded.

Round Up of Morning Session

LD241333 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1250 GMT 24 Feb 88

["Pool" Item: "Balkan Ministers Meeting—Morning Round up"—TANJUG headline]

[Text] Belgrade, 24 February (TANJUG)—The ever first meeting of foreign ministers of 6 Balkan countries opened today in the Yugoslav capital of Belgrade. The meeting was called by Yugoslavia who has succeeded to bring together ministers from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Turkey.

According to well informed sources, it was agreed beforehand that all acrimonious issues should be avoided. One of such items is, no doubt, the question of national minorities which has threathened peace in the Balkans in the past and posed as a burden to relations between almost all the countries of the region.

It is expected, however, that this 'hot issues' will be tackled at bilateral meeting of ministers behind closed doors. So far only ministers of Albanian (Reis Malile) and Bulgaria (Petur Mladenov) have spoken at the meeting expressing the position of their respective governments. The speech of the Albanian foreign minister was followed with special interest as Albania almost never attends international political meetings with the exception of the United Nations.

Among the participants are two Warsaw Pact members (Bulgaria and Romania) and two NATO members (Greece and Turkey).

Albanian minister has in, what observers termed as made with delicacy and pragmatically, speech reiterated his country's position on various international questions but has avoided steering any controversy. [sentence as received] He proposed that special committees be formed to promote cooperation between Balkan states. This time Minister Malile did not use the usual strong,

Albanian terminology when talking about United States and Soviet Union but warned against world euphoria about their recent agreement to limit certain types of nuclear weapons.

The Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov proposed that the Balkan countries take collective measures to remove tactical nuclear weapons from the Balkan peninsula. He also proposed that the Balkan countries exchange of military information to ensure that conflicts cold not start 'by chance' and in that sense the introduction of 'red telephones' connecting heads of states, ministers of defence and commands of border units of all Balkan states.

After Mladenov's speech, ministers adjourned their meeting for afternoon when the other ministers will speak.

Mladenov Meets Turkey's Yilmaz in Belgrade

AU232020 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] A meeting between Petur Mladenov, Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs, and Mesut Yilmaz, Turkey's minister of foreign affairs, took place on 23 February at the Belgrade Intercontinental Hotel. In a businesslike and constructive atmosphere they exchanged opinions on matters of common interest. The two ministers signed a protocol, which opens new opportunities to develop relations between the two neighboring states.

Minister Petur Mladenov made a statement for the press and stressed that the Bulgarian side is determined to work constructively to implement the agreements incorporated in the protocol, and thus create conditions for developing good-neighborly relations of friendship between the Bulgarian and the Turkish peoples, and between Bulgaria and Turkey.

For his part, the Turkish foreign minister positively assessed the protocol which has been signed, and pointed out that the Turkish side will act to implement the accord in a constructive spirit.

Further on Meeting

AU232058 Sofia BTA in English 2037 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, February 23 (BTA spec. corr.)—A meeting was held today in one of the halls of the Intercontinental Hotel between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Mr Petur Mladenov and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Mr Mesut Yilmaz. In a businesslike and constructive atmosphere the two sides exchanged opinions on issues of mutual interest. The two ministers signed a protocol revealing new possibilities for promoting the relations between the two neighboring countries (the text of the protocol is transmitted separately).

Then Mr Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, made a statement for the press. "The Bulgarian Government has always believed, he said, that all controversial issues among states can be solved only by peaceful dialogue. The protocol we have just signed does not solve the problems, but I am convinced that it will serve as a sound basis for seeking positive solutions to the existing problems. The Bulgarian side is resolved to work constructively for the realization of the agreements underlying the protocol in a way so as to create conditions for promoting good-neighborly friendly relations between the Bulgarian and the Turkish peoples, between Bulgaria and Greece [sentence as received]. We are glad that the agreement was reached and the protocol signed in Belgrade on the eve of the opening of the first postwar meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan countries. And, in spite of the fact that this meeting will not discuss bilateral issues, the fact that we have just signed such an important document with Mr Yilmaz is indicative of the fact that it is creating a favorable climate for the development of good relations between the neighboring countries."

On his part the Minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Turkey Mr Mesut Yilmaz said: "The protocol which we have just signed with the minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria Petur Mladenov, makes it possible for us to develop and settle a number of issues of our bilateral relations. On the Turkish side we give a positive assessment to the signing of this document and we will work for its realization in a constructive spirit. I wish the new stage, opening in our relations, to be fruitful for our peoples."

'Text' of Protocol

AU232112 Sofia BTA in English 2046 GMT 23 Feb 88

["Bulgaria—Turkey: Protocol on the Promotion of Relations of Good-Neighborliness, Friendship, and Cooperation"—BTA headline]

[Text] Belgrade, February 23 (BTA)—Following is the full text of the Protocol on the Promotion of Relations of Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Between Bulgaria and Turkey:

The ministers of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey,

in accordance with the principles of equality, mutual respect and non-intervention in internal affairs,

desirous of promoting relations of good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation in a manner that would serve their reciprocal interests,

declaring their resolve to fully abide by the existing bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements and other documents to which their two countries are parties, including the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,

convinced that progress of cooperation in the political, economic and humanitarian field will be in the best interests of the two countries' peoples and will likewise contribute to a better climate in the Balkans,

have agreed as follows:

1. With a view to finding a solution to the existing problems in bilateral relations, the area of humanitarian cooperation included, a joint working group shall be formed, jointly chaired by a Bulgarian deputy minister of foreign affairs and by a Turkish under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In particular, this working group shall prepare a joint draft declaration containing the principles of good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey.

2. Another high-level working group shall be established to determine specific measures to speed up the cooperation between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey in the field of economics, trade, tourism, technologies, transport, communications and culture and to submit these measures to the mixed Bulgaro-Turkish Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation, existing between the two countries.

3. The two working groups shall function parallely.

4. The two countries' ministers of foreign affairs shall exchange periodic visits and shall survey the functioning of the aforementioned two working groups and shall give them the appropriate directions.

5. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs shall hold regular political consultations.

Done at Belgrade on February 23, 1988, in the Bulgarian, Turkish and English languages. In case of differences in the interpretation of the Bulgarian and the Turkish texts, the English text shall prevail.

Protocol Called 'Good Sign'

AU240845 Sofia BTA in English 2117 GMT 23 Feb 88

["Commentary: In the Best Interests of the Turkish and the Bulgarian People, to the Benefit of Cooperation in the Balkans"—BTA headline, by 'political observer' Nencho Khranov]

[Text] Belgrade, February 23 (BTA political observer Nencho Khranov)—The protocol which the ministers of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, Mr Petur Mladenov, and of Turkey, Mr Mesut Yilmaz, signed in Belgrade, marks an important positive development in bilateral relations, a contribution to a better climate, to friendship and cooperation in the Balkans.

Proceeding from the existing realities, the sides express their mutual respect and, guided by the principles of equality and non-intervention in internal affairs, set themselves a lofty goal: to promote relations of good-neighbourliness and cooperation. This new trend in bilateral relations will be consolidated on the basis of the existing bilateral and multilateral agreements, in the best interests of the two peoples, for the sake of an improvement of the situation in the Balkans.

Socialist Bulgaria implements a clear and constructive Balkan policy and attaches great importance to her friendship and cooperation with her neighbours, Turkey included. State Council President Todor Zhivkov has had numerous occasions over the last few years to express this country's preparedness for active dialogue with Turkey from a position of realism, mutual respect and non-intervention in internal affairs, a dialogue between two countries which are and will be neighbours for times everlasting. That is why we have been, we are and always will be in favour of constructive relations with Turkey.

This Bulgarian position found expression in the programme for the promotion of bilateral relations set forth by Mr Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs, when he conferred with Mr Vahit Halefoglu, the then minister of foreign affairs of Turkey, in Vienna in the autumn of 1986. The Turkish side then was not prepared to accept those proposals.

This is why the Bulgarian Government decided to do everything in order to make step by step progress towards overcoming the difficulties and towards normalizing and developing the relations. The intergovernmental document signed today by the two foreign ministers reveals real possibilities for stabilizing Bulgaro-Turkish relations. Important political motives underlie the joint decision to maintain regular dialogue at different levels.

A new stable system for dialogue and contacts between the two countries is under construction which, provided there is goodwill, may assist the advance of joint work in the political, economic and humanitarian fields.

Humanitarian issues can be settled only on the basis of the formula adopted at the meeting between Mr Todor Zhivkov and President Kenan Evren in 1982. It reads: "The two leaders concluded that the former mass emigration agreements have been completed and agreed within the framework of their legislations to deal in a favourable and humanitarian spirit with individual applications for family reunification in Bulgaria and in Turkey."

Today's Mladenov-Yilmaz meeting and the document signed by them on the eve of the Balkan meeting of foreign ministers are a good sign for this forum of multilateral cooperation as well. It shows the great possibilities for making joint progress as well as how problems can be solved when there is goodwill, mutual respect and consideration of the sovereignty and the interests of the partners. And this is to the advantage of peace and political stability in the world and of the political stability in the Balkans, in Europe and in the world. It is in accord with the growing international tendencies for political dialogue, for a mutually advantageous settlement of the problems and for the introduction of new political thinking.

Zhivkov Continues Talks With Papandreou

AU231249 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] This morning State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov had a further meeting with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, in the Boyana Residence in Sofia.

They continued to exchange views on the state and development of bilateral relations, placing the main emphasis on the prospects in the field of economic ties, where a number of unused opportunities exist. It was pointed out that there are many preconditions for further promoting these relations, especially now, when a structural reorganization of the economy is under way in both countries.

During the talks, attention was also paid to the development of Bulgarian-Greek cooperation in other fields, especially in the field of culture.

The two leaders also [word indistinct] their exchange of views on a number of topical international problems. The similarity of the standpoints of Bulgaria and Greece on the most important problems of the modern world was once again stressed.

Comrade Todor Zhivkov and Andreas Papandreou voiced their readiness to contribute to the successful holding of the meeting of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers due to open in Belgrade, and believe that good results are to be expected from this meeting.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding.

'Joint Announcement'

AU231354 Sofia BTA in English 1324 GMT 23 Feb 88

["Appeal by Todor Zhivkov and Andreas Papandreou"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 23 (BTA)—Today, after the completion of the 2-day talks between Mr Todor Zhivkov, president of Bulgaria's State Council, and Mr Andreas Papandreou, prime minister of Greece, a joint announcement was released for publication which reads:

"In accordance with the two states' declared positions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Balkans, and in the spirit of the shared desire to contribute to the strengthening of the climate of detente and understanding in the Balkans, and in the wake of the signing of the historic treaty by Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan in December 1987, the two leaders declare themselves in favour of undertaking measures to remove tactical nuclear weapons from those sites on the territory of the Balkans where they are deployed and of assuming a commitment to renounce the further deployment of nuclear weapons.

"At the same time, Todor Zhivkov and Andreas Papandreou call on the rest of the Balkan states to accept the suggestion and to work for its implementation."

Departure Statement

AU231807 Sofia BTA in English 1727 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Sofia, February 23 (BTA)—The Greek Prime Minister Mr Andreas Papandreou is of the opinion that the joint proposal, put forward by him and Bulgaria's State Council President Mr Todor Zhivkov after the completion of their talks here, for taking measures to remove tactical nuclear weapons from the territory of the Balkans and for undertaking a commitment not to deploy new nuclear weapons is a wide step toward enhancing peace.

Commenting on the Bulgarian-Greek proposal Mr Andreas Papandreou expressed the hope that it will be accepted by the Balkan countries. I am afraid that not all countries will be ready for such a step. My hope is that all participants in the Belgrade meeting will be unanimous on this proposal. This would contribute to disarmament and detente in the Balkans, Mr Andreas Papandreou said at the press conference before his departure. It is also a message to the European countries and of course to the USSR and the U.S., he added.

Answering a question on how this initiative will be received in Brussels, Mr Andreas Papandreou recalled the active participation of Greece in the Dehli Group of Six. We hope that the USSR and the U.S. will proceed to an agreement on a 50 per cent reduction of the strategic weapons and that tactical weapons will be eliminated from Europe. We are against the policy which does not exclude the use of tactical nuclear weapons in an event of a conflict in Europe. I think that the West too should undertake the commitment not to use nuclear weapons first.

The Greek prime minister said that Mr Todor Zhivkov agreed to and sided with the agreement reached between Greece and Turkey in Davos. Because President Zhivkov has always declared himself for dialogue directed toward peace and detente, Mr Andreas Papandreou stressed.

He also specified that Bulgaria and Greece are for a united independent and demilitarized Cyprus and that the stands of the two countries on the Cyprus problem have not changed.

Speaking about Bulgaro-Greek relations, Mr Andreas Papandreou said that the present talks outlined some fields in which possibilities will be sought for further promoting cooperation. Here we have transport and tourism in mind. As you know there are many fields in which we are actively cooperating, he observed. Mr Andreas Papandreou pointed out that as EEC and CMEA members Greece and Bulgaria can do a lot for promoting cooperation between the two economic communities.

Papandreou Departs 23 Feb

AU231423 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] On 23 February Greek Premier Andreas Papandreou,who made a 2-day friendly and working visit to Bulgaria at the invitation of Comrade Todor Zhivkov, departed from Bulgaria. At Sofia Airport he was seen off by Comrade Georgi Atanasov and other officials.

Leaders Attend USSR Army Attache Reception

AU232105 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] A reception on the 70th anniversary of the USSR Army was given on 23 February in Sofia by [first name indistinct] Ordzhonikidze, USSR military attache in Bulgaria. The reception was attended by Comrades Georgi Atanasov, Grisha Filipov, Milko Balev, Petur Tanchev, Chudomir Aleksandrov, Georgi Yordanov, Dimitur Stoyanov, Stoyan Markov, Nacho Papazov, Dimitur Stanishev, and Stoyan Mikhaylov; deputy chairmen of the National Assembly; BCP Central Committee department heads; leaders of sociopolitical and mass organizations; deputy ministers of national defense; generals and officers of the Bulgarian People's Army; and Leonid Grekov, USSR ambassador to Bulgaria.

The reception took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Stanishev Receives Palestinian CP Delegation

AU231926 Sofia BTA in English 1829 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Sofia, February 23 (BTA)—Mr Dimitur Stanishev received a visiting delegation of the Palestinian Communist Party, led by Mr Na'im al-Ashhab, Politburo member of the party's Central Committee.

The sides discussed a wide range of questions concerning the situation in the world and in the international communist movement. They commended highly the Soviet-American INF Treaty.

Special attention was paid to the alarming situation in the Israeli-occupied territories. On behalf of the Bulgarian Communists and the entire Bulgarian people, Mr Dimitur Stanishev expressed their profound indignation over the brutal repressions against the defenseless population. Mr Na'im al-Ashhab thanked the BCP and Bulgaria for the support and solidarity they render and stressed the Palestinians' determination to counter actively the attempts at perpetuating the occupation and at imposing separate solutions, to stand up for their inalienable national rights and above all for the right to an independent homeland of their own.

An emphasis was laid on the need for an early start of preparations for an international Middle East conference, to be attended by all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. An important step in this direction would be the realization of the Soviet-proposed consultative meeting between the foreign ministers of the Security Council member countries.

Casualties at Borovets Hotel Fire Identified

AU231744 Sofia BTA in English 1725 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Sofia, February 23 (BTA)—The remaining two victims who died yesterday in the fire at the Musala Hotel in Borovets were identified today as Ms Karyn Whinnerah and Mr David Swann. Both are British subjects.

Thus, the identity of all five persons who were killed in the accident has now been established: the Dutchwomen Ms Van Den Berg and Ms Stekelenberg, the Bulgarian Mr Rumen Rusev, and the Britons Ms Karyn Whinnerah and Mr David Swann. As previously reported, a total of 37 people have been injured (17 Britons, 4 Soviet citizens, 5 West Germans, 2 Dutchmen and 2 Danes). Of those injured, 19 have been admitted for treatment at Sofia's Pirogov Emergency Hospital. The rest are treated in another hospital in Sofia and in the hospital of the town of Samokov. Some of the patients are expected to be discharged in the coming days. Only two of the cases are more serious.

The situation in Borovets has gone back to normal. Hundreds of skiers took advantage of the fresh snow to practise their favorite winter sport. The ski school and all facilities in the ski area are functioning. More than 2,500 foreign tourists and many Bulgarians are now holidaying at the resort.

Unrest Over Ruse Air Pollution

AU231537 Sofia LITERATUREN FRONT in Bulgarian Issue No 8 18 Feb 88 p1

[Rudenko Yordanov article: "Every Breath Is Doomed"]

[Text] It is painful to live in Ruse. Not only the natural environment is unhealthy, but also the moral environment suffers, and these unhealthy changes are becoming increasingly serious. The population of this town has lost its confidence in the future, it suffers from depression, and the feeling of hopelessness prevails. The fact that over 2,000 people demonstrated in the city square in the afternoon of 10 February is only one of numerous manifestations of this moral disease.

The demonstration was provoked by the new gas emissions, which were particularly severe on 4, 5, and 7 February, and above all by the fact that they occurred

after a series of promises, after the reconstruction of the Giurgiu chemical plant, had been completed, following a blessed, but short period of respite.

Such spontaneous demonstrations of dissatisfaction evoke two questions: "who?" and "why?" However, since over 2,000 people, and not some small group of extremists, participated in the demonstration, the question "why?" is more important.

The Bulgarian public, which until recently was kept in the dark about the extent of the disaster, should know why events took that turn. There is only one reason for this: In addition to the maximum permissible concentration of chlorine and acids, another concentration exists—namely that of human patience. It is true that throughout the 6 years in question children were born, plans were fulfilled, and Beethoven's music was performed. The city submissively and patiently awaited the promised time when one would be able to breathe again without coughing and suffocating, when people would be able to look at the river without pain in their eyes, and caress each other without an irritation of the skin. Nevertheless, no one's patience is unlimited, not even that of the Bulgarian people and the citizens of Ruse. Patience also has its maximum permissible limits.

People kept silent for too long, the bans did not permit even a small outlet to relieve the people's souls from all the pain that was accumulating. This is what such methods of action provoke: this is the "profit" gained from postponing the moment of truth, which sooner or later appears whenever a problem escalates with increasing intensity. Silence and the stubborn "accumulation of shortcomings" went so far that, from now on, even sincerity will provoke distrust. The fear that "I may suffer some harm, let me save my own skin" prevented a timely shaking up of the stagnating bureaucratic machinery. The endless reviewing of the situation (the concern about not offending anyone, which would result in greater difficulties for myself) were serious obstacles. The endless considerations, coordinations, and all other attributes of bureaucracy further obstructed the situation.

As late as 4 years following the beginning of gas emissions the first government document pertaining to the ecological situation in Ruse was issued. This was Instruction No 25 of the Council of Ministers Bureau, but the subject of Giurgiu was officially mentioned only as late as autumn 1987.

It is painful to list these chronological data on patience. It seems that the years on this calender have more than 365 days. Let us count: during 60 days of the year the average concentration of chlorine and mineral acids in Ruse exceeds the permissible maximum limit. On days of particularly severe chlorine gas emissions this maximum increases from 5 to 8 times, while the sinister record figures of mineral acids exceed the maximum limits 20 times. Just calculate: people breathe 15 times a minute, hundreds of times in hour, and thousands of times in 24 hours, and every time they breathe they are doomed.

Diseases of the respiratory organs, as well as skin allergies, and eye infections are about to double and the long-term consequences of this are unpredictable.

A high-ranking civil servant from Sofia certainly did not intend to make an outrageous remark when, from his comfortable office in the capital, he responded as follows to one of numerous cries for help from Ruse: "You people over there in Ruse make a fuss as soon as you smell a bit of chlorine!"

He may have been right! Nevertheless, this is a result of psychosis: All traumatic experiences lower the stimulus threshold. Those who have lived through an earthquake tremble every time the glass doors of a sideboard shake.

It is being affirmed that the problem has been accorded the necessary publicity [oglasa]. Let us open the newspapers of 2 or 3 years ago. It is useful to read old newspapers. While current newspapers are mapping out a bright future, old newspapers trace the path of delusion. Throughout 4 years nothing was ever mentioned about the lamentations, nothing about the poisonous smog, nothing about the tragic events. The official media sometimes responded in the following manner: "Be patient; these are interstate relations, a very delicate matter. We are adopting all the measures which depend on us." However, even this statement containing the justifying formula "which depend on us" is far from accurate. What depended on us, and what should have been done, was to make sure that the analysis of air pollution in the city is authoritative and reliable enough to provide authentic proof about pollution, because the opposite side is behaving incorrectly and trying to deny such proof. Neither the group from the Hygiene-Epidemiological Institute, however, nor the RIOPS [expansion unknown] group that started operating recently are supplied with the necessary number of people and equipment so as to be capable, using an express procedure, to provide information within a few minutes on the nature of the polluting agent and its concentration—and hence, to inform the population on what it should do, or not do, in accordance with the extent of the concentration. The proceedings are correct and use an aspirator, an absorbant, and spectrophotometry, but the results can be obtained within no less than 3 hours. This means that everything is done as it would be in any other Bulgarian town, under normal circumstances. Can we really talk about normal circumstances in the case of Ruse?

In addition to all this, the measured increase in the concentration of chlorine ions does not prove exactly which substances are poisoning the city. This is because the organoleptic damage caused by these substances is often greater than the effect of the chlorine itself.

Where are the technical progress, electronics, and express methods?

Perhaps they would have been applied if they were profitable, but is it not dangerous to provide such facilities for the Hygiene-Epidemiological Institute? Is it necessary to frighten the population and create certain "moods"? However, this is precisely the method of thinking that made Ruse citizens feel like 200,000 hostages of good-neighborly relations, instead of feeling like 200,000 Bulgarian citizens enjoying the same rights as the rest of their compatriots.

Is it not true that some kind of compensation should be expected for the suffering already endured and for future suffering? Is it not true that Ruse should receive a special status as a city threatened by ecological disaster? Should this status not include special care, such as the supply of additional medicines, additional medical services, and additional facilities for the population to be treated in sanatoriums and rest homes?

There are regulations about people who work in the open air in low temperatures. However, there are no regulations concerning people working in the open air subjected to various degrees of gas emanation. People in Ruse remember how on 23 September 1987, in conditions of severe gas emanations, hundreds of staggering children where led out on the square and had to line up for the ceremony of admission to the pioneers' organization. Desperately trying to protect themselves, they were breathing through their pioneers' ties. Imagine the bright memories these children will preserve about such kinds of "celebrations."

The slow operating equipment, the lack of a specially equipped coordination center, and of special means of information and individual protection will all make the town defenseless in the case of accident (Vrancha!). [significance of previous word unknown]

Sluggishness not only involves risks. Sluggishness is also expensive, because the plant, which is situated at a distance of only two kilometers from Ruse, can be seen with the naked eye across the Danube. We can see that it is being expanded along the river in a northeasterly direction. The expansion is based on chlorine which will serve as a fundamental substance for new products. The postponement of a decisive solution is increasingly making it evident that, if 3-4 years ago moving the plant would have cost a certain amount, today, because of the expansion, this process would become even more expensive, which diminishes the chances of success.

Silence is golden, this is true; but who is paying for it?

We need even more active, more resolute actions, but not suggestions, like the recommendation to plant more trees in the city in order to help purify the air, because the trees that were planted have already wilted. What kind of air will we breathe in the meantime while waiting for new trees to grow? If they grow at all...

The town and its citizens are particularly sensitive toward inept decisions, and painfully wary of all promises. At the same time, like all people who are suffering, they long for hope. They need hope in order to go on living.

We can read in chemistry schoolbooks about what chlorine provides us with, but as to what it deprives us of—you can ask the Ruse citizens about it! [In addition to the above article, a 200-word, untitled poem by Anastas Stoyanov is inserted in a special box on the same page, whose contents refer to air pollution in Ruse describing the distress of the population and the danger of ecological disasters for the whole nation]

Jakes Issues Order To Mark February Victory

LD232151 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1730 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and commander in chief of the People's Militia, has issued the order of the day on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the February Victory of the working people and the birth of the People's Militia. He said that the February Victory has become a key milestone in the modern history of our peoples. Inseparably connected with this event is birth of the People's Militia which has been set the concrete task of protecting the revolutionary advantages of the working people from the influence of both domestic and foreign enemies.

Comrade Jakes then went on to say that the 40th anniversary of the February Victory is being commemorated by us at the time when our socialist society has entered a new stage of its development, the stage that requires carrying out deep revolutionary transformations in all spheres of its life, and stressed that communists must stand in the vanguard of these transformations.

CTK Reports Soviet Greetings on Anniversary

LD231719 Prague CTK in English
1631 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 23 (CTK)—The Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Soviet Council of Ministers have sent a telegram of congratulations to Czechoslovak Communist Party General Secretary Milos Jakes, President Gustav Husak and Premier Lubomir Strougal on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victorious February.

Millions of Czechs and Slovaks gained the victory over reactionary forces in February 1948, and have thus chosen socialism. Due to devoted work and creative activities of the workers and intelligentsia, significant successes have been achieved in a short historical period, the telegram said.

The Czechoslovak Communist Party, following the ideas and aims of the victorious February, concentrates nowadays the energy of the communists, workers and all the people on settling the tasks of the country's development and on improving the socialist system of government in the spirit of consistent implementation of the 17th party congress resolutions, the telegram pointed out.

The Soviet representatives emphasized the unity and friendship of the two parties and nations, and expressed belief that the accord of general directions of the fundamental restructuring in both countries will be a significant impulse for raising the Czechoslovak-Soviet relations to a new qualitatively higher level.

Indra Meets Soviet Budget, Planning Group

LD231857 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1500 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Alois Indra, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and chairman of the Federal Assembly, received today a delegation of the planning and budget committees of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He expressed his conviction that the visit of the Soviet deputies would contribute to the exchange of practical experience on the role of representative and legislative bodies in the process of social restructuring.

The head of the Soviet delegation, Nikolay Maslennikov, described effective democratic control, safeguarding of the suitable legal procedures, and the preparation and the elaboration of the adopted measures with the wide participation of the people as the most important tasks of the highest Soviet legislative bodies.

Jakes, Husak Attend USSR Army Day Reception

LD232313 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak
1900 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Lieutenant General Ivan (?Spor), military and air attache at the Soviet Embassy in Czechoslovakia, gave a gala reception in Prague today to mark the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Soviet Army. Along with Soviet ambassador he welcomed Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee; Gustav Husak president of the Republic; and members of the Presidium of the Central Committee Vasil Bilak, Peter Colotka, Alois Indra, Josef Kempny, Jozef Lenart, and Lubomir Strougal. Also attending were Candidate Presidium Members of the Party Central Committee Jan Fojtik, Josef Haman, Ignac Janak, and Frantisek Pitra; Secretaries of the Party Central Committee Mikulas Beno and Jindrich Polednik; Secretariat Members of the CPCZ Central Committee Zdenek Horeni, Marie Kabhelova and Miroslav Zavadil, and other Czechoslovak representatives. Among the guests were representatives of the commander-in-chief of the allied Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states at the Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defense and the chief headquarters of the central group of the Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia, and other Soviet generals and officials. Also present were members of the diplomatic corps in Prague.

Vajnar Honors Fallen Soviet Heroes

LD231221 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1000 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] A solemn ceremony took place at the Red Army burial place of honor in the Olsany Cemetary in Prague today to mark the 70th anniversary of the birth of the Soviet Army and Navy. A Czechoslovak Armed Forces delegation, headed by Vratislav Vajnar, federal minister of the interior, paid respect to the memory of the Soviet heroes who laid down their lives in the liberation of our homeland. The March of the Fallen Revolutionaries was played and a military ceremony was performed on the

occasion. A Soviet Embassy delegation, headed by Ambassador Viktor Lomakin, also paid its respect to the memory of the Red Army men by laying a wreath. A delegation of the Central Group of Soviet Forces in Czechoslovakia and representatives of the commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact armed forces attached to the Federal Ministry of National Defense, also paid homage to the heroes.

Poland 'Retaliates' for Broken Contract
AU231746 Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech 17 Feb 88 p 1

["JS"-signed article: "Dollar At Any Price?"]

[Text] The balance sheet of sugar refineries for the last year is not a happy one. They did not fulfill the planned procurement of sugar beet and did not produce the required quantity of sugar. At a press conference yesterday [16 February], O. Novotny, general director of the Sugar Refining Industry concern, gave reasons for this. He said, among other things, that the areas planted with sugar beet in the Czech SR decreassed by 2,685 hectares last year, and planting was delayed due to the weather, which was reflected in a shorter vegetation period. It is interesting, however, that a number of sugar refineries, particularly in Moravia, have been built which burn quality bituminous coal. This Poland had promised us. It was barter trade, because the Paskov cellulose plant was supposed to deliver paper pulp to the PPR. The plant, however, sold it to the West, and Poland retaliated by not delivering the promised coal. For this reason Moravian sugar refineries were not working at full capacity, some of them were quickly reconstructed to burn gas. The Modrany sugar refinery succeded in doing this. The situation in Cakovice might be better in a year, maybe. O. Novotny commented on the aforementioned case by saying that we pay dearly for trading which lacks concepts. Let us add that this is not the only case.

Stefanak Examines Current Foreign Policy
AU220855 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 18 Feb 88 p 6

[Article by Michal Stefanak, CPCZ Central Committee department head: "International Aspects of Our Current Policy"]

[Text] Our party and our entire society are now undergoing a period which is of fundamental importance for us in embarking on a deep transformation of our sociopolitical, economic, ideological, and cultural life and of the management mechanism in our society—but it is also of fundamental importance for our foreign policy. The impact of all these goals is not merely domestic. We have always linked our domestic tasks with international tasks, following the dialectics of domestic and foreign-political factors and their interdependence and interlinkage. We are concerned with making our fatherland a firm link of the socialist community, and with further consolidating its international status and authority in the world.

In short, we have two main goals in mind: to create favorable external conditions for building a developed socialist society, and to enhance Czechoslovakia's influence and authority in the world by successfully and comprehensively developing our society. By developing our economic and spiritual potential, we want to enhance our country's contribution to the fight for peace and to the solution of such basic issues of the present as removing the danger of a nuclear war breaking out, and achieving international security and disarmament.

As Comrade Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, said at the seventh CPCZ Central Comnittee session: Our policy is simultaneously a policy of consolidating our unity and cooperation with the CPSU, with other fraternal parties, and with the international communist and workers movement, so as to aid the development of socialism and the consolidation of peace. M. Jakes stressed at the session: "The main thing is to implement it better than to date. All our energy, and the CPCZ Central Committee's entire work, must be oriented toward this."

Strategy of Acceleration [subhead]

Where do we start? During the last few years many issues that have been maturing throughout the postwar period of world development have become exacerbated. The problem of mankind's survival has become particularly acute. Apart from this, the economic relations in the world have become complicated, and the interdependence of nations and states has increased. Because of this, the wholeness of our multifaceted and contradictory world has deepened. This makes it imperative for our party (and for all other communist and workers parties) to reassess the content and potential of the policy of peaceful coexistence and to evaluate and consider our tasks.

We realize the need to assess the past in the context of international relations and to appraise the nature of the present era and the motive forces of progress, together with all their potential and limitations. We are now facing new phenomena, which are creating new foundations for mutual relations inside the class-divided world, and more favorable prerequisites for saving mankind from the threat of self-destruction.

On the basis of a reappraisal and re-evaluation of the situation, we conclude (like the CPSU and other fraternal parties) that we must enhance the revolutionary impact of the socialist example and in this way awaken new forces, forces capable of ensuring the world's social progress.

This is precisely the point from which the 17th CPCZ Congress and the seventh CPCZ Central Committee session have proceeded. Our responsibility to the people of Czechoslovakia and all mankind is constantly growing. The need to accelerate the comprehensive restructuring of economic and social development in our socialist society is becoming increasingly apparent.

The entire socialist community is confronted with similar tasks. The latest congresses of communist and workers parties (particularly the 27th CPSU Congress) have opened new chapters in the life of the socialist world. They meant the beginning of a basically new phase of socialist development, oriented toward creating a qualitatively new situation in the socialist countries. They created prerequisites for resolving the basic issues of the life of these countries at the present stage of their development.

The theoretical foundations of the strategy of acceleration which the fraternal parties have worked out (while bearing in mind their own specific conditions, and their role and responsibility to world socialism and to mankind in general), are based on dialectical-materialist understanding and on the consistent implementation of the laws of social life. The essence of this strategy lies in getting to know all that has happened—and in removing all that hampers the progress of socialism, all that is the result of difficult objective circumstances or gross subjective mistakes.

Acceleration is not merely (or primarily) the answer to questions on how to increase the rate of economic and scientific-technical progress—it is a search for efficient ways and means to help the socialist society embody in the foreseeable future all that is progressive and humane in the social development of the world and to become an example of social effectiveness and intellectual vigor. The substance of the platform adopted by the fraternal countries lies in understanding the acceleration of socioeconomic development as the revelation of new prerequisites of socialism through the use of man's new potential.

Currently the fraternal parties are orienting their efforts toward implementing in practice the ideological-theoretical platform of restructuring which they have worked out, so that the processes of revolutionary transformations can be deepened.

Restructuring primarily means a resolute strengthening and development of all the new, positive features with which socialism has enriched the human society; it means the overcoming of stagnation processes, the abolition of braking mechanisms, and the creation of reliable and effective instruments for speeding up the socioeconomic development of the socialist society. The main aim of restructuring is to link the results of scientific-technical revolution with a planned economy and with setting the entire potential of socialism in motion.

The most important feature of the restructuring process is its reliance on the creativity of the masses, its comprehensive development of democracy and socialist self-management, its stimulation of the people's initiative, its consolidation of order and discipline, and its expansion of the flow of information, criticism, and self-criticism to all spheres of social life.

Restructuring is connected with the constant enhancement of the role of intensive factors in the development of socialist economy and with the renewal and improvement of the management of national economy on the basis of democratic centralism; it is connected with the comprehensive introduction of economic management methods and it envisages a restriction of bureaucracy and the ensurance of a transition of all economic links to the principles of full economic accountability and to new forms of the organization of work and production; it also envisages a comprehensive encouragement of innovationism and socialist entrepreneurship.

Restructuring means that the society must be energetically freed of all that disrupts socialist morality, and that the principles of socialist justice must be consistently implemented. The purpose of restructuring is to renew all aspects of the country's life, to provide socialism with the most modern forms of social organization, and to uncover to the fullest extent the humanitarian nature of the socialist system in all its decisive aspects (economic, sociopolitical, and moral) on a national and international scale.

The historical call is addressed to all socialist countries; each of them bears a share of responsibility for the elaboration and accomplishment of the topical tasks. A decisive role in all this is played by their cohesion and cooperation. We are well aware that we can expect to meet with complicated problems, that we will have to show both persistence and courage, that we will have to face reality, approach the accumulated problems in a new way, pave the way to the future, and remove all that is preventing a solution of domestic and international problems.

Unity in Variety [subhead]

Restructuring is increasingly revealing its international substance. And this is all too logical, since the renewal of socialism and the improvement of the socialist society are a lasting process. They are part of our system, of its theory and practice.

Naturally, every socialist country has its peculiarities; and, in determining the political line, the fraternal parties are taking these specific national conditions into account.

In characterizing the current policy of the socialist countries as socialism's answer to the challenge of the times, M. Gorbachev stressed that, while this answer will have

a variety of forms and will express the peculiarities of the development of individual fraternal countries, nevertheless "in its principled foundations it will be a uniform answer."

When we analyze the national peculiarities contained in the development of socialism, we find a most colorful picture. And this is how it should be. Already V. I. Lenin stated his view that the socialist whole can only be the result of several attempts, each of them inevitably being one-sided and incomplete.

The orientation toward restructuring in the socialist world makes it easier for us to build up mutual relations between the individual countries on the basis of such generally recognized principles as equality, responsibility of the ruling party for state affairs, care for the common cause of socialism, mutual respect, serious approach to the achievements of individual socialist peoples and what they have tried out, voluntary multifaceted cooperation, and other principles of socialist internationalism. The communist parties and socialist states have learnt the lesson about the damage that can be caused by a slackening of these principles—particularly by any withdrawal from the principles of mutual advantages and mutual assistance, or if the common interests of socialism are ignored in activities undertaken in the world arena. Formerly the improvement of socialism was primarily connected with the development of its material technical base; but now many socialist countries are feeling the need to rebuild [prestavet] their political mechanisms and social relations, without which no changes in technology and economy are possible. Transformations in the sphere of the superstructure are showing us a new approach to political life. In this life primary attention is focused not only on collectives, but also on individuals, on their self-realization, on their rights and freedoms. The new approach is oriented toward self-management, public approval, conscious discipline, higher moral authority, and enhanced policy—not on bureaucratic formality.

The communist parties are clearly setting the paths of political restructuring and of the further development of socialist democracy—its modern concept is being gradually worked out. We are trying to find mechanisms capable of respecting the plurality of interests and distinguish the base of social approval. The crisis situations that have emerged in certain countries have shown us how dangerous it is to ignore social conflicts or to prevent them from being consistently resolved.

Recently new institutions have begun to emerge in the fraternal countries side by side with the traditional ones—various movements, informal associations, funds, political clubs, and so forth. The structure of socialist democracy is being enriched everywhere. In this context Polish and Hungarian Communists are speaking of socialist pluralism; they do not mean by this the well-known "free" play of political forces—they mean an expansion of the platform of national consensus under conditions of implementing the leading role of communist parties. All socialist countries are striving to improve the organization of work carried out by their representative bodies, national and popular fronts (and the parties forming them), and social organizations. Their work will have to be enriched and its efficiency raised; it must be harmonized with practical needs, and the methods used in training and in the adoption of political decisions must be improved.

In restructuring the political organization of society one also cannot ignore the methods used in party work in general, and those used for implementing the leading role of the Marxist-Leninist party in particular. Our own experience proves that a critical analysis of mutual party-society relations is extremely topical. Constructive solutions for this problem are being energetically sought. Comrade Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, dealt with these issues in great detail at the recent joint session of the National Front Central Committees.

To strengthen the party management currently means to increase ideological-political influence—and not to duplicate the activities of diverse management mechanisms, or perhaps replace them. Restructuring is intended to refocus the activities of party agencies and apparatus away from ensuring everyday tasks (and perhaps acting as a substitute for the state apparatus) and on creating and practically implementing the main trends of the strategy of developing society—on developing purposeful ideological-educational work among the masses, and among youth in particular and on creating that healthy moral-political and ideological atmosphere that is needed for reaching the set goals. From the conclusions adopted by the seventh CPCZ Central Committee session it follows that our party will orient its work toward selecting and training the most able leading cadres. The main instrument for exerting influence on various institutions and bureaus must be exerted by the communists working there.

Making Use of the Advantages of Socialism [subhead]

Restructuring in the fraternal countries offers greater scope for activating the mechanism of socialist internationalism. This was also reflected in the revived work of the Warsaw Pact agencies, and particularly that of the Political Consultative Committee. The result was that recently it has become possible to enhance the coordinated peace efforts of socialist countries.

The course of restructuring is showing how urgent it is for the socialist countries to make full use of the considerable advantages offered to everybody by the internationalization of economic life.

At the working meeting of the leading representatives of communist and workers parties in CEMA countries (held in Moscow in November 1986), the leading figures of our countries formulated the following task: to work out a mechanism of economic cooperation which would

contribute to the utmost toward implementing the strategy of deepening and intensifying the integration processes which were defined at the economic summit meeting of 1984. The experts and scientists from the fraternal countries have begun consistently accomplishing the task set at the working meeting. This was not easy; however, the main directions of the stands maintained by the individual countries were identical. The restructuring of the mechanism of CEMA cooperation and activity is needed by everybody, regardless of the peculiarities of economic development and of national economic structures.

The CEMA sessions of 1986 and 1987 adopted measures for the cooperation of CEMA countries to promote the intensification and the dynamic and harmonious development of their national economies to the maximum and to help increase the prosperity of their peoples on the basis of scientific-technical progress, encourage the effective use of the international socialist division of labor, and consolidate their status in the world economy.

The CSSR-USSR cooperation is also deepening in this same spirit. On the occasion of the visit paid by Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, to Moscow, Mikhail Gorbachev particularly stressed the thought that is common to all fraternal parties and countries: "Experience in restructuring has armed us with the understanding that the advantages of the socialist system (also in the realm of economic cooperation) will not become a reality automatically," he said; "what the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia now needs is a scientifically substantiated, long-term concept of economic and scientific-technical cooperation for the coming 15-20 years. This is a most important task, which must be approached most seriously. We are in favor of removing all sediments and barriers that prevent integration. In order to jointly resolve the problems of scientific-technical progress, we must start making use of experience and innovationist ideas, and release the creative energy of the masses."

The CEMA countries' economic policy and plans should be coordinated on the basis of a collective concept for the years 1989-2005. In view of this, the concept should primarily define both the final and the consecutive goals of the international socialist division of work. Czechoslovakia is preeminently interested in the speedy elaboration and implementation of a collective concept of the international socialist division of work; its realization should lead to considerable structural shifts which are essential for our implementing the strategy of accelerating the CSSR's social and economic development. The creation of a realistic and sensible strategy of developing the CSSR's external economic relations with the states of the CEMA community is one of our key tasks. The CSSR should become an important exporting country in a relatively narrow circle of sectors within the processing industry, also in view of the worldwide division of work. We are already working on this—like the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries, we are currently beginning to basically reorganize our economy and superstructure.

Possibilities for a Democratization of International Relations [subhead]

We understand restructuring in the broad sense of the word. We are enforcing it throughout our domestic and foreign policy, in all spheres of international relations. Even today it is becoming obvious that this opens great opportunities for resolving the urgent issues that are currently facing all of mankind. As a result of the new dynamics of the development of socialism, we have been able to activate our foreign policy to an unprecedented extent, at the same time increasing its effectiveness.

Obviously, the Soviet Union is playing a decisive role in the socialist community's common peace effort; its consistent and simultaneously innovative policy is of basic significance for progress on the road of consolidating peace and international stability. The Soviet-American summit meeting and the treaty on the elimination of the most dangerous groups of nuclear arsenals (two classes of nuclear missiles, the intermediary- and shorter-range missiles) undoubtedly represented the supreme event in the international relations of 1987 and an immense success on the road toward a nuclear-free world, as depicted by M. Gorbachev on 15 January 1986.

Quite understandably this was merely the first step on this road. At the following meetings the Soviet Union will be persistently striving for further specific results on the key issue—that of eliminating the nuclear threat, cutting down strategic arms, and banning the militarization of space. Only a short time ago such a turn was unimaginable. But the idea of nuclear disarmament has changed from being utopic to becoming a work program. The strength of socialist foreign policy lies in its collective elaboration and coordinated implementation by all fraternal parties and countries; at the same time its main strategic initiatives are supported by the individual participants in various specific ways. This is also how our own party and state are proceeding. We are developing Czechoslovakia's foreign-political effort within the framework of the coordinated policy of the countries of the socialist community. Cooperation with the fraternal countries in the foreign-political field expands our possibilities, simultaneously contributing toward the achievement of the common goals which fully express the interests of all peace-loving mankind.

At the 42d UN General Assembly Session we developed considerable activity to make this significant international forum contribute more effectively toward establishing peace relations in the world and toward developing the cooperation of states regardless of their social system. Our initiatives in connection with the comprehensive system of international peace and security, the

creation of international ecological safety, and the establishment of international cooperation for achieving the goals of disarmament, inspection [kontrola], and adherence to disarmament agreements, and so forth were most significant.

We also voiced our views on other significant issues, above all on the normalization of international economic relations and the establishment of a new economic system which would ensure economic security for all countries. We are also developing great efforts to create a worldwide concept of environmental protection.

We devote extraordinary attention to the development of European security and cooperation, striving to reach specific results at the Vienna negotiations on mutually reducing armed forces and armaments in central Europe, at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, and in other forums.

The philosophy of our current policy is based on our opening new opportunities for the democratization and humanization of international relations. We are striving to cultivate the peoples' feeling of spiritual togetherness, to strengthen their awareness of a united civilization, and to help them grasp that the world is an entity.

The recent developments in international relations confirm that restructuring offers great opportunities for peaceful cooperation. It ensures the neutralization of imperialist attempts to develop economic and political extortion and pressure on the socialist community, ensures the community's rise to world standards in all the most important economic indicators, and enables it to join the world division of labor and resources to an unprecedented extent. In this way the extensive scientific, technical, and production potential of socialism will become far more important a part of world economic relations, thus decisively expanding and consolidating the material base of the comprehensive system of peace and international security.

A close and logical interlinkage exists between the restructuring process and the powerful and extensive peace offensive undertaken by the Soviet Union together with other socialist countries in the last few years. This close interconnection is due to the fact that the successful solution of internal construction tasks is helping to activate efforts to create favorable external conditions for socialist construction.

The new political thinking which we are presenting to the world shows mankind a way out of the blind alley of a confrontation of two worlds, helping mankind to resolve the problems which are increasingly worrying it. It is being increasingly confirmed that socialism is a social system which brings mankind peace, freedom, equality, and prosperity.

USSR To Begin Missile Withdrawal 25 Feb

LD240812 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0300 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 24 Feb (ADN)—The announced early withdrawal of shorter-range Soviet missiles from the territory of the GDR will begin tomorrow in Waren an der Mueritz and Bischofswerda. The Foreign Ministry, spokesman Ambassador Wolfgang Meyer, stated this to ADN.

This step once more testifies to the constructive peace policy of the USSR, the GDR, and the other socialist states. It is a further specific contribution to the ratification soon of the historic Soviet-U.S. treaty of 8 December 1987 and is intended to create favorable conditions for its fulfillment.

The withdrawal of these systems at such an early juncture, agreed with the USSR, [as received] at the same time aimed at raising trust between East and West and stimulating further positive changes principally on the continent of Europe. The expectation bound up with this actions is that on the other side too steps will be taken to promote a rapid coming into force of the treaty.

As Ambassador Meyer stressed, the GDR, together with the USSR and the other Warsaw Pact states, is acting in accordance with the basic principle that no let-up should now be allowed in the disarmament process. In accordance with this basic concern Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, suggested in his letter to FRG Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl of 16 December 1987 a series of concrete proposals, the fulfillment of which would be of far-reaching importance in supporting the disarmament process.

U.S. Hypocrisy on Middle East Decried

AU231632 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 20-21 Feb 88

[He. commentary: "Hypocritical Preachers"]

[Text] As we reported, the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Commission most strongly condemned the massive violations of the most fundamental human rights by Israel. In two resolutions, strong condemnation of Tel Aviv's practices over the last few weeks and months, and even years was expressed. The resolutions denounced aggression, occupation, terror and murder, imprisonment and torture, starvation in Palestinian refugee camps, and the mutilation of women, children, and young people. Who does not remember the cruelty of Israeli soldiers who, at the beginning of February, tried to bury alive four Arabs by means of an bulldozer?

The resolution states that Israeli policy and the continued violation of human rights have shown that Israel is not a peace-loving UN member and that it does not fulfill the obligations that result from the UN Charter. One of the resolutions was moved by Algeria, the other by Nicaragua. The GDR was one of the co-authors.

But who refused to defend human rights and work against those who trample on them? The United States did not adopt the two resolutions. The FRG rejected one and abstained from voting on the other.

How characteristic this is! They are the ones who usually claim to be the apostles of peace. They are the ones who, under the pretext of human rights abuse, interfere with the internal affairs of other countries, particularly of socialist states.

How is their own record of vital human rights? Of the right to peace and life when tens of thousands are dragged before the courts because of their struggle for peace and disarmament? Of the right to work when millions are deprived of this right? Of the right to a home when rents are exorbitant, when homelessness and new poverty have reached alarming levels?

Those in whose countries millions of human rights violations are common practice support those who are accused of human rights violations by the United Nations. We take note of it and are aware of this link, terrifying as it may be. The only thing they should do is stop preaching to others, particularly to those who, under socialism, are safeguarding concrete human rights for all and are speaking out internationally against their violation, which in this case was committed by Israel.

Honecker, Leaders Honor Soviet Soldiers

LD231338 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1018 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 23 Feb (ADN)—Representatives of the GDR state and party leadership today, on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Army and Navy, honored the Soviet heroes who fell in the Great Patriotic War by laying a wreath at the memorial in Berlin-Treptow, together with personages from the USSR and thousands of Berliners.

Heading the procession was Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council; the members of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee Willi Stoph, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Horst Sindermann, president of the People's Chamber. also present were Vyacheslav Kochemasov ambassador of the USSR to the GDR; Army General Boots Snetkov, commander in chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany; and Ricardo Walter Stubs Vega, doyen of the diplomatic corps. Following them were other members and candidate members of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and other representatives of the SED Central

Committee and other representatives of the life of society. Working people from Berlin factories and institutions laid wreaths and flowers in the grove containing the resting places of more than 5,000 Soviet soldiers who died in the liberation of Berlin.

In the crypt of the main monument Erich Honecker, Willi Stoph, Horst Sindermann, Vyacheslav Kochemasov, and the others present stood in quiet remembrance. The GDR and USSR anthems were played.

Further wreath-layings took place on the same day at other memorials in Berlin, as well as at places of remembrance and monuments to Soviet heroes in all parts of the GDR.

Soviet Embassy Holds Reception

LD231920 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1606 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 23 Feb (ADN)—On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy the military, naval, and air attache at the Soviet Embassy in the GDR, Major General Petr Rybalkin gave a reception in Berlin this evening. Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, and other members of the GDR's state and party leadership were warmly welcomed as guests. The reception was heralded by the national anthems of the two countries.

The gathering at the embassy in Unter den Linden was attended by Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers; Members and Candidate Members of the SED Central Committee Politburo Hermann Axen, Horst Dohlus, Werner Felfe, Joachim Herrmann, Guenther Kleiber, Egon Krenz, Werner Krolikowski, Army General Erich Mielke, Erich Mueckenberger, and Inge Lange. Professor Dr Manfred Gerlach, deputy chairman of the State Council, and Professor Dr Lothar Kolditz, president of the National Council of the National Front, and Horst Soelle and Dr Herbert Weiz, deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers, were present.

The guests of honor included SEW Chairman Horst Schmitt.

Other guests included other members and candidate members of the SED Central Committee, other members of the Council of Ministers, among them Army General Friedrich Dickel, minister of the interior and chief of the German People's Police, members of the State Council, the chairmen of mass organizations, and members of the Presidium of the People's Chamber. It was also attended by Colonel General Fritz Streletz, deputy minister of national defense and chief of the National People's Army Main Administration, other generals and officers of the armed forces of the GDR, and other public figures and veterans of the German working class movement.

Chiefs of diplomatic missions accredited to the GDR and military attaches were invited.

Major General Rybalkin proposed a toast in the presence of the USSR ambassador to the GDR, Vyacheslav Kochemasov, and the commander in chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, Army General Boris Snetkov. He praised the Soviet Armed Forces as a child of the Great October. Its history is one of devoted, selfless service to the socialist homeland.

The military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact, the attache said, is solely directed at the solution of the most important task of the present: the prevention of both a nuclear and a conventional war. An example of how the most complicated problems can be solved with the necessary political will is the treaty between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. It has also been made possible because of the GDR's constructive stance. Guided by good will and efforts for the implementation of the treaty stipulations, the Soviet Union will start the withdrawal of missile units from the territory of the GDR and the CSSR which were stationed there in response to the U.S. missiles in Western Europe, at the end of February.

We, our allies, and the overwhelming majority of mankind are interested in the preservation and strengthening of peace, he underscored. At the same time the USSR's defense and security policy proceeds on the basis that under conditions of a continuing danger of war, the striving for peace must be linked with readiness to defend freedom and independence. together with the GDR's National People's Army and the armies of the other socialist countries, the Soviet Armed Forces reliably stand guard for peace and security throughout the world.

Continued Reportage of Gromyko Visit

Nemeth, Gromyko Hold Talks

LD231934 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] [Announcer] In Budapest the discussions have begun between the Hungarian and Soviet heads of state. The first discussions have already ended and our correspondent Gabor Izbeki has returned to the studio. Let us hear his report:

[Izbeki] These discussions started at 1500 GMT and lasted over 2 hours. Since the concrete content of cooperation will be discussed by experts during the course of the visit—they will discuss the details—Andrey Gromyko and Karoly Nemeth rather set the basic tone for the next 3 days and determined the topics of the discussions.

Karoly Nemeth stated that we are intereted in the success of the Soviet reform. He recalled that in both countries there will be a party conference in the first half of the year and at these the further tasks will be decided. Our country wishes development to be on the basis of the 4 decades' tradition of Soviet-Hungarian relations. In every area we still have reserves, stressed Karoly Nemeth. These must be exploited by taking into consideration as fully as possible the interests of both sides. We would like trade to expand in such a way that it would at the same time become balanced, said Karoly Nemeth. Without going into concrete details, he said also that Hungary fully supports the latest Soviet foreign political steps. He spoke appreciatively, for example, about the fact that only 1 day after the Shevardnadze-Shultz visit, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had already briefed in Prague the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact countries about the discussions.

Andrey Gormyko, who was foreign minister of the Soviet Union for almost 3 decades, now spoke less about international life. Instead, he recalled for Karoly Nemeth his earlier diplomatic memories, introducing his comments in this way. Andrey Gromyko spoke first and foremost about the Soviet reform. He stressed its importance. He said that the fundamental interests of socialism require the success of the reform, of the renewal, because if it is not successful then we would not be able to exploit our potential for development. He pointed to the great successes that the developed capitalist countries have achieved, for instance in the scientific-technical revolution, and that the socialist countries can simply not afford to lag behind in this sphere. Reconstruction, the process known internationally as perestroyka, is a strategic objective in the Soviet Union, said Andrey Gromyko. There is no deadline to this, but we should advance more quickly than we do today in every area. He alluded to the fact that there are many who still do not understand the essence of all this, mainly at the middle level and in the republics. Gromyko assessed as of great significance the speech delivered by Mikhail Gorbachev at the latest Central Committee session. He said that this is the ideological evaluation of today's Soviet process.

Andrey Gromyko's official friendly visit will continue at 1800 GMT with a gala dinner, where Karoly Nemeth and Andrey Gromyko will deliver toasts.

Meets With Kadar

LD241128 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Party General Secretary Janos Kadar has met Andrey Gromyko, member of the CPSU Politburo, president of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. It was stressed at the talks that the successful realization of the economic and social renewal in Hungary and the restructuring that has begun in the USSR was in our common interest.

The two sides stated with satisfaction that relations between the two parties and countries had further expanded in recent times. Confidence had strengthened and understanding was more complete. It continued to be a common endeavor to help solve the economic and political tasks by the balanced and mutually advantageous development of the frienship and multilayered relations between the Hungarian and Soviet peoples, and thus to create the modern, effective means of cooperation.

At the discussion, which passed off in a cordial, sincere, and comradely atmosphere, the sides informed each other of the situation of the two countries and the two parties' topical tasks, with special regard to the preparation of the national MSZMP conference and the all-union CPSU conference.

Janos Kadar and Andrey Gromyko stressed that cooperation among the socialist countries had to be up-dated.

The meeting also was attended by Karoly Nemeth, member of the Politburo and president of the Presidential Council.

Andrey Gromyko laid a wreath this morning at the monument to Hungarian heroes in Heroes' Square, and placed flowers of remembrance at the Lenin Statue and the monument to Soviet heroes in Liberty Square. The president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium was accompanied by Pal Ivanyi, chairman of Budapest Council, among others.

Lays Wreath at Monument

LD241233 Budapest MTI in English 1145 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 24 (MTI)—Wednesday morning Andrey Gromyko's programme continued with a wreath-laying ceremony. The member of the Political Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

and the president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, in Budapest since Tuesday on the invitation of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic, laid a wreath on the Hungarian Heroes' Monument with military honours at Budapest's Heroes' Square. He also placed the flowers of tribute and commemoration on the Dozsa Gyorgy Street statue of V.I. Lenin, the founder of the Soviet party and state, as well as on the Soviet Heroes' Monument at Szabadsag Square.

Leaders Greet Soviet Officials on Anniversary

LD230453 Budapest MTI in English
1822 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 17 (MTI)—On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Hungarian-Soviet Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, the HSWP Central Committee, the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic exchanged telegrams with the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union.

Karpati Cables USSR's Yazov on Army, Navy Day

LD230932 Budapest MTI in English
0101 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 23 (MTI)—Colonel General Ferenc Karpati, Hungarian minister of defence, has greeted in a telegram Army General Dmitriy Yazov, minister of defence of the Soviet Union, on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet, the day of the Soviet Armed Forces.

Wreath-Laying Ceremony

LD231348 Budapest MTI in English
1147 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 23 (MTI)—On Tuesday a wreath-laying ceremony was held at the Liberation Monument on Budapest's Gellert Hill to mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet.

The Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic was represented by Peter Medgyessy, deputy prime minister, and Lajos Urban, minister of transport; the Armed Forces of the Hungarian People's Republic by Istvan Horvath, minister of the Interior, Sandor Borbely, national commander of the workers' Militia and Lieutenant General Lajos Morocz, under-secretary of state at the Ministry of Defence; the Soviet Embassy in Budapest by Ambassador Boris Stukalin, Envoy-Counsellor Vladlen Puntus, Counsellor Igor Mikheyev and Colonel Arkady Danilko, military and air attache. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the National Council of the Patriotic People's Front, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth Union of Hungary, the Budapest Corps of Military Attaches and the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship Society. The wreath of the southern Soviet Army group temporarily stationed in Hungary was placed by Colonel-General Aleksey Demidov, commander of the Soviet Army group, and Colonel-General Rudolf Gorelov and Colonel-General Yuriy Vodolazov, members of the Military Council. The Federation of Hungarian Resistance Fighters, anti-fascists and the Hungarian Defence Federation were also represented.

Budapest Meeting

LD232100 Budapest MTI in English
1837 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 23 (MTI)—The 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet, the Hungarian Ministry of Defence and the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship Society (HSFS) was marked in Budapest on Tuesday. After an opening of HSFS President Antal Apro, a speech was delivered by Lieutenant General Lajos Morocz, state secretary of defence. The session was attended by Peter Medgyessy, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Peter Varga, head of department at the HSWP Central Committee, Istvan Horvath, minister of the interior, Sandor Borbely, national commander of the Workers Militia, and Gyula Biro, HSFS general secretary. Also in attendeance were Vladlen Puntus, counsellor of legation at the Budapest Embassy of the Soviet Union, military attaches accredited to Hungary, and Brigadier General Yuri Sivaliov, deputy of the representative in Hungary of the commander-in-chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty member states.

On the anniverary an awarding ceremony was held on Tuesday. HSFS President Antal Apro presented the Golden-Wreath Badge of the Society of officers of the Soviet southern army group. Present at the ceremony was Peter Varga, head of department at the HSWP CC. Representatives of the command of the Soviet southern army group and Colonel Arkadi Danilko, military and air attache, were also in attendance.

MSZMP's Miklos Nemeth Departs for FRG

LD231540 Budapest MTI in English 1455 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 23 (MTI)—Miklos Nemeth, secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, left for the Federal Republic of Germany Tuesday. During his visit to the FRG, the secretary of the HSWP Central Committee is to hold talks with leading officials of the West German Government, and leading representatives of political, economic and financial life.

Arrives in Bonn

LD231811 Budapest MTI in English
1735 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Bonn, February 23 (MTI)—Miklos Nemeth, secretary of the HWSP Central Committee, arrived in Munich Tuesday afternoon. During his stay in the FRG Miklos Nemeth is to hold talks with leading representatives of the West German Government and political, economic and financial life.

Briefs

Libyan Bank Head Visits

Budapest, February 20 (MTI)—Muhammad al-Zaruq Rajab, governor of the Central Bank of Libya, held talks in Budapest February 17-20 with his host, Matyas Timar, president of the National Bank of Hungary, on issues of financial cooperation between the two countries, banks, and the international financial situation. The governor of the Central Bank of Libya met Laszlo Somogyi, minister of construction and urbgan development, co-chairman of the Hungarian-Libyan Economic Cooperation Joint Committee, and Tibor Melega, deputy minister of trade. [Text] [*Budapest MTI in English 1525 GMT 20 Feb 88 LD*]

Slovene Trade Official Visits

Cvetka Selsek, president of the Committee for International Cooperation of the Slovene SR, visited Hungary between 15-16 February at the invitation of Deputy Minister of Trade Imre Dunai. The two officials reviewed and evaluated the Hungarian-Slovene trade turnover in 1987 and outlined possible areas for further development, with special attention paid to the dynamically developing border agreements. Mrs Cvetka Selsek was received by Finance Minister Miklos Villanyi, Hungarian co-chairman of the Hungarian-SFRY committee for Economic Cooperation. She also held talks with Miklos Barity, deputy minister of foreign affairs. [Text] [*Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 17 Feb p 5 AU*]

India's Gandhi Receives Orzechowski

LD232300 Warsaw PAP in English
2225 GMT 23 Feb 88

[By PAP correspondent Krzysztof Mroziewicz]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 23—India's Premier Rajiv Gandhi received on Tuesday Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski, now on an official visit to India.

A friendly, frank and creative talk on the enrichment of the forms of bilateral cooperation confirmed both countries' will of cooperation, aimed at meeting challenges ensuing from the development of international situation after the decisions of the Washington Gorbachev-Reagan summit and from the economic potentials of Poland and India.

The talk confirmed the conviction that the two countries can support each other in economic cooperation and expect a broad field of cooperation in the international arena.

The meeting showed that the activity of India and the remaining partners of the Delhi Six and the Jaruzelski Plan are the initiatives ensuing from the necessity of finding an answer to the question: How will the fate of the world be shaped after the signing of the treaty on elimination of intermediate and shorter range missiles.

The sides stressed the possibility of solving regional conflicts which concern India and in which Poland is intensely interested.

Also on Tuesday a second round of talks between India's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Natwar Singh and Orzechowski took place.

Discussed were bilateral, regional and international issues. The talks, held in a friendly and business-like atmosphere, showed the considerable convergence of opinions as to all the problems that were touched upon.

Orzechowski presented possibilities of the use of the Jaruzelski Plan at the present level of disarmament talks.

The sides pointed to the necessity of the political solution of conflicts around Afghanistan and Kampuchea and to the possibility of bilateral cooperation which would be conducive to this process.

Orzechowski was also received by speaker of the Indian Parliament Balram Jhakhar. The two stressed the importance that both sides attached to cooperation between the parliaments of India and Poland.

West Accused of 'Blurring' Truth About Jews

LD231753 Warsaw PAP in English
1445 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 23—Kazimierz Kakol, the director of the Main Commission for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Poland-Institute of National Remembrance spoke about attempts at blurring the truth about the extermination of Jews by the Nazis in a programme broadcast by the Polish radio external service (Radio Polonia).

"In the settlements reached by historians of that period a terrible accusation is levelled at the world—more specifically at the powers ruling that world: governments, state structures and also the church, moral authorities which despite the fact that they were informed about the crimes did not deem it right to react in an appropriate way," Kakol said, among other things.

"The information about the extermination of the Jews was transmitted with such a rate and systematicness that it may be said that knowledge about what was happening was shared by the powers of this world.

"Thus, the argument cannot be put forward that the governments of the United States, Great Britain, allegedly did not know since the facts contradict this. It is said that gentlemen do not discuss facts. They did not behave like gentlemen on that side, putting the immediate calculations as to the methods of conducting the war before the duty which faced them. For giving help lay within their capabilities, not in the capabilities of those who already on September 1st 1939 were crushed by tanks and terrorized on an equal basis with their Jewish brothers," Karol continued.

"Official statements made by the Washington Administration or the British Government, condemning the crimes committed on the Jewish population in Poland, were made but, they came too late. They were not made when the crimes could have been prevented," Karol continued.

Towards the end of the programme Kazimierz Kakol referred to the attempts undertaken in the West at burdening Poles with the tragedy of the Jewish population.

"One of the sources is ignorance and the lack of conscientiousness to learn the real truth. Besides, there is also the intention of conscious action. I would say that this was the Germanic lobby functioning in the Western world which, taking a realitivistic view of the Nazis' blame—is busy finding ways of cleansing the German nation of disgrace. Terrible things are happening.

"In connection with Demyanyuk's process, the reports about his arrest, extradition to Israel were supplemented with pictures, captions underneath which read: 'Ivan Demyanyuk, the hangman of the Jewish population in the Polish concentration camp in Treblinka'. The word 'Nazi' was missing. And these captions were quoted by

the American and West German press. Demands for correction are treated with neglect. It is said: 'Everybody knows that it was a Nazi camp'," Kakol noted.

"The chairman of the American Holocaust Committee who recently visited Poland brought with him a leaflet handed out at the airport in New York City. It contained 66 questions about the holocaust. One of the questions is the following: 'Oswiecim lies in Poland. Then why are Germans being accused for the extermination of the Jews'. This is deliberate work organized for somebody's money. The truth—in the authors' intention—is to be a function of the amount of repetitions, just like in Goebbels' time," he concluded.

Sejm Delegation Visits FRG, Holds Talks

LD232153 Warsaw PAP in English
2104 GMT 23 Feb 88

[By PAP correspondent Eugeniusz Guz]

[Text] Bonn, Feb. 23—Top officials of the Polish Sejm's Poland-FRG deputies' group headed by PUWP CC Political Bureau alternate member Deputy Stanislaw Bejger held talks in the Foreign and Economics Ministries here today. They were entertained to a luncheon by Chairman of the Bundestag's Foreign Committee Dr Hans Strecken and in the evening by Bundestag's President Dr Phillip Jenninger to a dinner.

The Polish guests attended a working meeting with their counterparts in the West German parliament and considered the question along what lines joint initiatives should be developed. The question is all the more important as the relations between Poland and West Germany are expected to be very busy this year.

Guidelines for development of parliamentary cooperation were determined. It was said that the two parliaments not only were able and should be able to achieve much in order to maintain a good political climate but should also present their respective authorities with definite solutions.

In the course of the discussion, a number of specific proposals aimed at stimulation of mutual relations was submitted. The two sides agreed that Poland-FRG relations needed an extra political impulse and that the 1970 treaty should constitute a foundation of interparliamentary cooperation.

"We must make sure the treaty is kept alive", said a Bundestag deputy. The sides also shared a view that no efforts should be spared in order both to overcome the historic past and to look into future.

Italian Daily Cites Walesa on Reform Demands

PM241022 Milan L'UNITA in Italian
21 Feb 88 p 10

[Interview with Polish Solidarity Chairman Lech Walesa in Gdansk; date not given]

[Excerpt] Gdansk—[Passage omitted] [Bertinetto] In other cities workers in some of the major factories have successfully exerted pressure for pay increases. Gdansk has not yet moved. Why not?

[Walesa] We want to concentrate all our energies in the movement for reforms. Of course, the price increases introduced on 1 February were the last thing the government should have done, but the workers realize that without thorough changes the situation would become really difficult, which is why they are demanding more thorough changes than those the authorities have planned, rather than pay increases. Solidarity does not presume to accede to power. Our movement will struggle but it will not seek confrontation, especially in such an unfavorable situation as the present. If we are denied heating in our homes, we must yield.

[Bertinetto] What "more thorough" reforms are you seeking?

[Walesa] Above all, we need more pluralism in Poland—pluralism in the economy, in the social defense and trade union bodies, and in the political field. The first two are a matter of real urgency. Political pluralism could wait a while.

[Bertinetto] Is a meeting between you and Jaruzelski possible?

[Walesa] The only solution is an agreement between the sides concerned, which does not mean the general and the corporal sitting down at the same table but an understanding based on the accords already signed (in 1980). Of course if and when pluralism is eventually accepted we could even meet personally.

[Bertinetto] Is there any likelihood of an understanding in the near future?

[Walesa] No, it will take years. We are confident of victory but we will achieve it gradually. Revolutions have cost us dearly. Our objectives are revolutionary but our methods will be evolutionary. In any case my verdict on the government is not entirely negative. It is moving in the right direction.

[Bertinetto] Will Gorbachev's accession to the leadership of the CPSU exert a positive influence on Poland's future?

[Walesa] We are witnessing an entirely new situation. Here the movement for reforms began from the grassroots and was blocked by the leadership. In Moscow, however, the impetus came from the top. Be that as it may, we believe that what is happening in the USSR is very important.

Lithuania Indignant at U.S. 'Interference'

AU241147 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 18 Feb 88 p 6

["An Anti-Lithuanian Propaganda Campaign by Western Stations—Lithuanians' Indignation Toward Washington's Declarations"—PAP headline]

[Text] Vilnius. PAP correspondent Jozef Rzeszut writes: Archbishop Ludas Pavelonis, chairman of the Episcopal Conference of the Lithuanian SSR, received in Kaunas a group of foreign journalists accompanied by Bishop Yuozapas Preiksas, vicar general of the Diocese of Kaunas, and told them about the current situation with the Roman Catholic Church in the republic. He emphasized that Catholic churches are not used for political purposes in Lithuania. He said this because of claims by Western radio stations that there was a nationalist rally following a church service in Kaunas in connection with the 70th anniversary of Lithuania's independence on 16 February 1918.

The independence proclaimed in that year by the Lithuanian State Council, the Taryba, was fictitious because Lithuania was occupied by imperial Germany and the occupants had not given the Taryba any powers of state authority. Pyatras Stashkunas, chairman of the Kaunas City Soviet Executive Committee, also said that despite the great propaganda campaign by Western stations, there were no nationalist occurrences in the city.

Lithuanian society has reacted with indignation to U.S. President Reagan's proclamation and the American Congress participation in the anti-Lithuanian campaign, considering it to be interference in the internal affairs of the Lithuanian SSR. Despite the earlier forecasts by Western propaganda centers, life in Vilnius and in Kaunas is normal. The only rallies to have occurred there recently are protest rallies against U.S. interference in the affairs of the Lithuanian SSR.

Leaders Visit Factories, Talk With Workers

LD240948 Warsaw PAP in English 2311 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 23—Members of the PUWP CC Political Bureau and Secretariat visited today crews of numerous factories, enterprises and public institutions throughout the country and discussed with workers, activists and party members major current problems. The dominant topic boiled down to practical implementation of the principles of the economic reforms' second stage. Here are brief reports from some of the meetings:

We must manage on our own, this was the recurrent idea during talks Jozef Baryla, PUWP CC secretary and Political Bureau member, held with crews of many a factory in Bydgoszcz. We earn plenty, it was said at the Eltra radio works there, but we still invest a lot in future. We could still increase our work efficiency, if only materials from co-operants were better.

PUWP CC Secretary and Political Bureau Member Jozef Czyrek paid a visit to the Omig radio sub-assemblies works. The Omig is the only Polish manufacturer of generators, crystal filters and quartz-crystal resonators, indispensible to modern electronics. Omig's rapid 20-to-30-per-cent annual production growth is accompanied by development of exports. The IBM concern, for instance, is one of the partners and they buy resonators for their computers. Many products are channelled to socialist countries' markets.

The present economic system, Omig crew ventured during the meeting with Czyrek, is more complicated. Not all of its solutions are known yet. Other, for example, do not permit to make full use of the exempts granted in return for good exports. [sentence as received] As a result of the economic calculation shows that it has for some time now been improfitable to step up production. [sentence as received] A situation like this evokes disappointment and gives an impression that it was requirements and not our potential that grew.

Taking a stand with regard to various reservations made towards the solutions of the reforms' second stage, Jozef Czyrek spoke in favour of the need to establish conditions for carrying economic experiments in selected factories, as well as for economic "equalization" of prerogatives for all the economy's sector.

PUWP CC Secretary and Political Bureau member Marian Wozniak's itinerary included a visit to the crew of the Sigmatex textile works in Piotrkow Trybunalski. Opinions were exchanged on the works' operation in the current reformed conditions. The phenomenon of suppliers extorting the so-called hard-currency input and imprecise principles of managing hard-currency exports revenue allowance were named as obstacles most difficult to overcome. The said regulations make those who are efficient, thrifty and who export their products are often deprived of their motivation to do so. [sentence as received]

The brake imposed on the reforms, said Wozniak, encounters today justified resistance from directors and crews who have made fast headway into reforms. Today, it turns out that they find barriers and hurdles resulting the reforms' deceleration. They must not give up hope and surrender. The path they followed is the only possible one. It is those who lagged behind that must come up with those ahead.

Messner Visits Warsaw Cardiology Institute

LD232117 Warsaw PAP in English
1957 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 23—Premier Zbigniew Messner today visited the Warsaw Institute of Cardiology. Built eight years ago, at present, the institute coordinates field research and provides a specialistic cardiological supervision for the whole country.

Messner stressed the significance which the government attached to the problems of health care and particularly to the all-round prevention of health hazards posed by civilization and to ways of combatting them.

'Special Importance' Attached to Balkan Ties

AU231452 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1335 GMT 23 Feb 88

["SCINTEIA on Inter-Balkan Economic Cooperation"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES 23/2/1988—A commentary "SCINTEIA" runs in its February 23 issue underscores the special importance Romania attaches to the development of collaboration with the countries in the Balkan Peninsula, countries to which it is linked not only through geographical proximity but also through common major interests of their peoples and rich traditions of friendship. This constant concern found an expression in Romania's initiatives and proposals over the years, the commentary shows mentioning that it can be said in full consensus with facts that history recorded Romania's role as a protagonist of the idea of inter-Balkan cooperation.

The commentary highlights that inter-Balkan economic cooperation can be brought to a higher level as, generally, all the Balkan countries have made substantial progress in the growth of some industrial branches or agriculture. There are many complementary aspects of the Balkan states' national economies, which facilitates and calls for the development of cooperative relations, with positive results in the mutual interest. Given all this, Romania has consistently worked for the expansion of economic links both bilaterally and multilaterally with and among all the states in the area. The development of summit dialogue, President Nicolae Ceausescu's interviews and talks with Balkan heads of state when highly important documents were concluded on growing collaboration have been of great significance for the stimulation of Romania's ties with the other Balkan states. A brilliant example has been the cooperation between Romania and Yugoslavia for the full use of the Danube's power potential. So, concerted efforts led to the building of the waterpower stations Iron Gates I and II. Romania and Bulgaria covenanted the joint building of two hydroelectric plants on the Danube, at Turnu Magurele-Nikopol and Calarasi-Silistra. Developing cooperative ties between them, the heavy equipment and machinery enterprise of Giurgiu and the similar enterprise at Ruse make up a powerful industrial complex. Along this line, new and important documents were covenanted in the last few years like the long-term programme for growing economic, technical and scientific collaboration between Romania and Bulgaria until 1990 and, in some domains, till the year 2000, the elaboration of a wide-ranging programme for a more powerful development of cooperation in production and production specialization in spheres of high significance for Romania's and Yugoslavia's socioeconomic progress, for the rise of economic collaboration between the two countries on to a new stage, a long-term agreement on commercial exchanges and economic and technical cooperation between Romania and Turkey. Generally, the documents Romania concluded with Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey and Albania—long-term programmes, definitional agreements, trade accords—are a telling expression of mutual wish to deepen and diversify economic cooperation, confer stability and prospects on their relations, agree upon new, higher forms of cooperation, inclusive of cooperation in production.

Romania has also been and worked for the growth of many-sided collaboration among the states in the peninsula, making a positive contribution to a series of inter-Balkan economic, technical and scientific meetings.

Noting that such developments prove that the idea of collaboration asserts itself ever more powerfully "SCINTEIA" shows at the end of its commentary:

In this general context the Belgrade meeting of Balkan foreign ministers takes place. It gives the participants the opportunity to broadly and freely exchange opinions on the ways and means to expand ties of good neighbourhood, to deepen collaboration and cooperation, including cooperation in the economy and other sectors of joint interest. The meeting may make an outstanding contribution to identifying new domains of collaboration, increasing commercial exchanges, solving questions related to transport, development of technical and scientific collaboration, the broadening of ties of cooperation in farm production, environmental protection, the development of dialogue to present various proposals and projects apt to help economic progress and strengthen cooperation and good neighbourhood, build up confidence and consolidate friendship.

Certainly, the successful unfolding of the Belgrade meeting would open prospects for the rise of inter-Balkan cooperation to a higher stage. Decisively important in this respect would be, as Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu suggested, the calling of a Balkan summit, of a Balkan decision-makers' meeting, convinced that a still more powerful development of inter-Balkan cooperation fulfils the aspirations after progress, peace and security of the nations in the area just like in Europe and the world over.

Festive Meeting Marks Soviet Army, Navy Day

AU231754 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 20 Feb 88 p 6

[Text] On the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, a festive meeting was held at the Military Academy under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General Ilie Ceausescu, deputy minister of national defense and secretary of the Higher Political Council of the Romanian Army.

The festive meeting was attended by V.G. Pozdnyakov, USSR charge d'affaires ad interim in Romania, by Rear Admiral G.A. Mikhaylov, USSR military, air, and naval attache in Romania, and by other members of the Soviet Embassy.

During the festive meeting, the Soviet military attache spoke about the importance of this anniversary and the current activity of the Soviet soldiers.

Likewise, the military, air, and naval attache to Romania met with soldiers in the Second Garrison of the Romanian Army and spoke to them about the significance of the event that is being celebrated. The participants in the meeting were shown a photographic exhibition and documentaries provided by the USSR Embassy in Bucharest.

Andrei Attends Embassy Reception

AU231759 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1727 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 23/02/1988—On the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, the ambassador of the USSR in Bucharest, Y.M. Tyzhelnikov, gave a reception on Tuesday, February 23.

In the attendance were Stefan Andrei, deputy prime minister, deputy heads of section at the CC of the RCP, executives in the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives of other ministries and central institutions, generals and officers, party and state activists, journalists.

Also present were heads of diplomatic missions and military, air and naval attaches accredited in Bucharest.

A friendly meeting was also held at the Consulate General of the USSR in Constanta, when Rear Admiral G.A. Mikhaylov, military, air and naval attache of the USSR in Bucharest, took the floor.

On the same occasion, a floral wreath was laid at the Soviet Heroes' Memorial in Bucharest on behalf of the Ministry of National Defence and the People's Council of the Romanian capital city.

In the attendance were Major-General Stefan Gusa, first deputy minister of National Defence and chief of staff, vice-chairmen of the city people's council, generals and officers, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A floral wreath was also laid on behalf of the Embassy of the Soviet Union in Bucharest.

Present were G.G. Vedernikov, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, who is paying a visit to Romania, Y.M. Tyzhelnikov, ambassador of the Soviet Union in Bucharest, and embassy staff.

Floral wreaths and garlands were also laid at the Soviet soldiers' cemeteries at Herastrau, Jilava and other Romanian localities.

Barbulescu Gives Agriculture Management Report

AU231635 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 18 Feb 88 p 3

["Report on the Activity of the Collective Managerial Bodies in State and Cooperative Agricultural Units, Joint Agroindustrial Councils, Enterprises and Units of the Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management, of County Bodies, Central Departments and Ministries Making up the National Council; On Measures to Enhance Their Role in Ensuring Self-Management and Financial-Economic Self-Administration—Abridged Text," presented by Vasile Barbulescu, RCP Central Committee secretary, at the opening of the 17-19 February plenum of the National Council of Agriculture, the Food Industry, Silviculture and Water Management—in Bucharest 17 February]

[Text] In an atmosphere of great enthusiasm and gratitude, our people celebrated the birthday and more than 55 years of heroic and continuous revolutionary activity of Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, the beloved and esteemed leader of our party and state, the ingenious strategist of our homeland's advance on the victorious road of socialism and communism, and the great hero among heroes of our nation.

The working people in agriculture, food industry, silviculture, and water management have expressed, like all our people—and also on the occasion of this great holiday—their feelings of profound love, appreciation, and respect harbored for the party secretary general and president of the republic, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu. They also expressed warm thanks for everything he has done for the glory and greatness of our dear homeland, for the well-being and happiness of our people, and for the cause of socialism, peace, and understanding in the world.

Paying homage to the beloved leader, the working people in these important economic branches, with great feelings of respect and esteem, also expressed their deep gratitude toward Comrade Elena Ceausescu, front-ranking militant of our party and state and scientist of wide international recognition, for her special contribution to implementing party policy and to developing scientific research and education in our country closely in keeping with the current and future requirements of production and of our homeland's multifaceted prosperity.

With the firm determination to unflinchingly promote party policy, the working people's collectives in these important branches of the national economy also firmly pledged to resolutely implement the recommendations and guidelines included in Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's report to the RCP National Conference and to do all they can to commendably fulfill this year's plan and the overall 5-year plan.

The party—in leading the comprehensive process of building the new system—ensures the construction of socialism with the people and for the people according to Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's concept, which is of exceptional importance. The party guarantees this in the wake of the historic Ninth RCP Congress for the workers revolutionary system at all levels: Ministries, central departments, general directorates, and economic units making up the National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management strengthened constantly. The county unions and the National Union of Agricultural Production Cooperatives, the joint state and cooperative agroindustrial councils, as well as county councils and the National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management were set up. The tasks of general meetings, of the managerial councils, the working people's councils, and of their executive bureaus—democratic bodies that ensure the effective participation of all categories of working people in formulating, discussing, and adopting production plans and income and expenditures budgets, in strengthening order and discipline at work, in the proper management of public wealth, and strengthening socialist property—have increased.

Currently there are 1,492 working people's councils operating in state agriculture, 349 in the food industry, 54 in forestry, and 55 in water management, while 4,967 managerial councils and executive bureaus are operating in cooperative agricultural units and in joint agroindustrial councils. In state and cooperative agricultural units alone these bodies incorporate more than 110,000 cooperative members, workers, foremen, technicians, and engineers, experienced cadres with positive results in production who represent all categories of working people.

Life has fully demonstrated the correctness of the measures initiated by the party secretary general that brought about a link between the uniform leadership of all socioeconomic activities and the increased tasks and responsibilities of local bodies and economic units and ensured the promotion of the masses' creative initiative. Telling proof of this are the results achieved in 1987 by numerous leading units in agriculture, food industry, forestry, and water management.

However, examining last year's activity from the angle of the fulfillment of plan tasks and the recommendations made by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu at the RCP National Conference and at the recent plenum of the National Council of Working People, the conclusion is obvious that the results achieved do not completely reflect existing possibilities, the strong material-technical base created, and the steady financial efforts made by our state.

Life has demonstrated that this situation is because of the fact that some collective leadership bodies—beginning with those in the production process and on up to the managerial councils in ministries—do not completely and responsibly fulfill their tasks and do not perform sustained work to make each working collective and each working man act with devotion and revolutionary spirit to implement party decisions, the country's laws, and fulfill plan tasks.

Despite all our progress, there are still units in all areas where not enough work has been done to implement exactly the recommendations made by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, party secretary general, and to turn the general meetings into genuine managerial forums designed to decide on all socioeconomic matters.

There are still instances in the cooperative sector of agriculture when managerial councils, executive bureaus of joint agroindustrial councils, and cooperative unions do not exhibit appropriate concern about regularly holding general meetings and preparing them appropriately, with choosing the subjects to be discussed, with involving an increasingly larger number of cooperative workers in the discussions and promoting their initiatives, and with adopting measures and decisions to ensure the participation of all working people in implementing them. A positive aspect is that numerous managerial councils in agricultural cooperative units—acting in the spirit of the tasks set for them by the statute—are making a special contribution to the proper progress of public affairs and to the fulfillment of the plan. However, there are also agricultural cooperatives in which these bodies are not commendably fulfilling their task of ensuring—during the interval between general meetings—the management of all activities, the firm implementation of the adopted decisions, the fulfillment of plan provisions, the protection and development of cooperative ownership, and the fulfillment of contractual obligations assumed toward the state.

The activity of the working people's councils in state agricultural enterprises must be improved. Although some of them achieve large outputs and profits, on the whole production and financial results in this sector falls short of the possibilities. Certain shortfalls are also noted in the activity of the collective leadership bodies in agricultural mechanization units that must work with greater determination to perform work of the best quality.

The role played by joint agroindustrial councils in organizing and carrying out agricultural activity is known. However, control work has proven that some joint agroindustrial councils and collective leadership bodies are not completely fulfilling their tasks and obligations. There are instances when members of those bodies confine themselves only to participating in the meetings of the organizations for which they are responsible, without granting them the necessary help in preparing for and carrying out their work.

The report also stresses the role of party organizations in the proper organization and performance of the activity in bureaus for the coordination of the activity of people's councils, which are regional plan executors and must initiate and carry out public works, must pursue the way in which plans are being fulfilled and programs are being implemented in the given localities, and must see to the systematic observance of the law and to the use of local raw material resources in order to develop the small-scale industry.

Great responsibility rests also with the collective leadership bodies in agricultural general directorates and county corporations for the shortfalls still obvious in some agricultural units. They must guide the activity of managements and of specialists in units most competently, and must supervise the way in which steps are taken to apply established technologies, both in large-scale crop cultivation and in animal breeding.

In connection with the activity carried out by the county unions of agricultural cooperatives, the report stresses that firm and constant action is needed to ensure the proper progress of all activities in cooperatives, the fulfillment of the planned vegetable and animal production, the development of industrial activities and public services, and the use of all locally available material resources and manpower to ensure the achievement of profits and increase the economic potential of units.

The shortfalls evident in the agricultural activity—the report states—can also be explained through the work style and methods of the collective managerial bodies in the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department for State Agriculture, and economic general directorates. These managerial bodies' duty is to exert stricter control over the way in which the promoted measures are being implemented and party decisions and laws that regulate agricultural activity are being implemented.

Certain positive results have been achieved in the units of the Ministry of Food Industry. The collective leadership bodies within the ministry, central departments, and enterprises have made their contribution to these results as well. However, it must be stressed that in some central departments and units in this branch, the collective leadership bodies did not concern themselves enough with employing machines and equipment at full capacity, modernizing technological processes, increasing the utilization level of raw materials, improving the qualitative level of products, and with increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of our products.

Despite the fact that positive results were achieved in the fulfillment of plan indicators in forestry, the collective leadership bodies at all levels must work with greater determination to ensure the integrity of the forestry stock. The must also guarantee the strict observance of provisions on tree felling in forests, the implementation of the afforestation programs, especially on degraded lands unsuitable for agriculture, and a better use of the other forest resources. They must also strengthen order and discipline in each productive unit and subunit.

In the sector of water management, the collective leadership bodies within the National Council for Water and county councils must carry out more sustained activity to ensure especially the completion and on schedule commissioning of new water reservoirs, the execution of river-course regulation, and environment protection in order to supervise the water quality in reservoirs.

In keeping with tasks set by the party leadership and benefiting from the constant, special, and highly competent support by Comrade Academician Dr Engineer Elena Ceausescu, we have achieved valuable results in scientific research. These results are visible in new plant varieties and hybrids, in animal breeds and races, and in the improvement and development of new technologies. The Presidium of the Academy of Agricultural and Silvicultural Sciences, the managerial councils in research institutes and stations must intensify their research activity, especially in top fields such as genetic biotechnology and engineering, and must introduce and give general application to the results achieved in research.

Fully understanding that 1988 is a decisive year for the fulfillment of the targets of the current 5-year plan, the National Council for Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management has to concern itself more with perfecting the work style and methods of the collective leadership bodies in order to involve all working people from these sectors in fulfilling production tasks. Great attention must be paid to the appropriate progress of the spring agricultural campaign by placing stress on the proper preparation of lands and on sowing each crop within optimal time limits, by sowing all plots of land in conformity with plan tasks, and by performing all seasonal operations in vegetable, fruit, and wine growing, as well as in the animal-breeding sector.

In light of the recommendations made by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, party secretary general, new organizational and technical measures will be established to ensure high-quality work, so that large crops are ensured in all sectors. For this purpose, guidance and the supervisory activity will be improved, and we will see to it that the leadership cadres and specialists everywhere resolve all problems effectively and with the greatest of responsibility, so that all activities will be carried out to match current requirements.

The collective leadership bodies must concern themselves with effectively solving all problems linked to the proper preparation and operation of tractors and agricultural machinery needed for the campaign and irrigation systems, and with problems linked to the repair of installations in sugar factories and in the canned food industry.

We pledge to the party leadership and to our much esteemed and beloved leader, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, personally that we will work with great responsibility and exactingness to completely fulfill the plan tasks and special programs, and to increase the contribution of working people in agriculture, food industry, silviculture, and water management to implementing the party program and the decisions of the 13th RCP Congress and of the RCP National Conference.

David Speech to Plenum

AU231650 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 20 Feb 88 p 5

[Report on "Speech by Comrade Gheorghe David," candidate member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee and minister of agriculture, at the expanded plenum of the National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management in Bucharest 19 February]

[Text] The speaker expressed great regard and appreciation for the decisive contribution made by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu to drawing up and implementing the internal and foreign policy of our party and state and to completing the magnificent work of building the comprehensively developed socialist society in Romania and ensuring the country's progress toward communism. He said that all those who work in the field of agriculture express their utmost gratitude over the concept of the new agrarian revolution and the great support, of priceless value, granted to them in implementing it.

Awarding Olt County, Ilfov's agricultural sector, and many other agricultural units the "Hero of the New Agrarian Revolution" title for achieving record yields last year is a great honor for them and, at the same time, is a strong stimulus for the activity of all those who work in agriculture, with a view to achieving superior crops this year in all counties and agricultural units. The far-reaching programs, the recommendations of the party secretary general, and the tasks established during the thorough examination made on various occasions on the development of our agriculture represent certain guidance in our work to improve our work and increase the efficiency of all our activity.

Mentioning that last year the working people in agriculture achieved important results in increasing agricultural output, the speaker stressed the fact that a great number of agricultural units achieved record wheat, barley, corn, sunflower, soy beans, sugar beet, potato, and vegetable yields and record results in the livestock breeding sector, in accordance with the requirements and objectives of the new agrarian revolution.

A decisive role in achieving great yields was played by beginning production on the results of scientific research, based on the programs detailed under the direct guidance of Comrade Academician Doctor Engineer Elena Ceausescu—to whom, on this occasion, too, we extend our most respectful thanks and our highest regard and gratitude.

Applying the new discoveries of agricultural sciences and generally spreading the advanced experience of the leading units will continue to be the major objectives in our activity and in the activity of all working people in agriculture.

There have been shortfalls in fulfillment, and a great number of indicators and vegetable and animal production have not been up to the plan provisions, to our potential, or to our technical-material base, the speaker said. He added that all this proves the lack of concern and responsibility of the cadres in the ministry, in some county agricultural bodies, and of leaders of several production units to make a better use of the land stock and to carry out the agricultural operations in accordance with norms and laws that ensure the fulfillment of the programs established for the livestock sector.

In order to fulfill the important tasks incumbent on agriculture this year, we should take firm measures to better organize production and labor and to implement to the letter the provisions included in the special program established to ensure the fulfillment of the plan for item-specified production and for economic efficiency.

After referring widely to the measures required to ensure the optimal flow of the spring campaign and to carry out this year's agricultural operations in optimal periods and at the required quality level, the speaker said in conclusion: We assure you much beloved and esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu that we will improve the style and method of our activity. We will eliminate all shortcomings and mistakes, devote all our working power to the fulfillment of our tasks, and do all we can to completely and very efficiently fulfill the plan provisions and decisions of the 13th RCP Congress and of the party national conference. Thus, we will make our contribution to raising our dear homeland to new pinnacles of progress and civilization.

Officials, Media Preview Balkan Conference

Loncar Views 'Political Challenge'

AU240744 Belgrade NIN in Serbo-Croatian No 1938 21 Feb 88 pp 40-41

[Interview with Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, by Hari Stajner: "Without the Burden of the Past"—date and place not given]

[Text] Budimir Loncar will not have completed even a month in office as the new Yugoslav foreign affairs minister when he takes up an extremely sensitive and responsible task—he will be the host of and will represent Yugoslavia at the historic (just because it will be the first such meeting in the history of the Balkans) meeting of the six countries' foreign ministers. In many ways this will be a complex and difficult task and another professional and political challenge for the previous deputy foreign minister and former undersecretary and ambassador to Indonesia, the FRG, and the United States. It will also be an occasion for the 12th Yugoslav foreign minister to prove his already well-known characteristics: an extraordinary diplomatic skill and proficiency, persistence, but also balance. Therefore, there is no doubt that the new Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs will be much more than just a good host at the forthcoming meeting. Despite his many obligations, including the final preparations for the meeting of Balkan ministers of foreign affairs, Budimir Loncar has found time to take part in NIN's "Balkan series" and answer some questions which his colleagues from Greece, Turkey, and Bulgaria have already answered.

[Stajner] This will be the first ever meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of all Balkan countries. Why, in your opinion, have there not been any such meetings in the past?

[Loncar] You know the well-known saying that "nothing can stop an idea whose time has come." At the same time, nothing in international relations happens out of nothing, without political will, action, or the initiative of specific people at a specific time. It is perhaps one of the basic characteristics of our times that the processes of integration are carried out within the very substance of international relations, so to speak, that modern technology, data processing, transportation, and science, and in the nuclear era peace and security in particular, development, preservation, and protection of our common and only ecosphere and biosphere simply require multilateral cooperation in the world and in all regions.

All this has been felt and gradually more and more clearly understood in the Balkans too, and many attempts to that effect have been made. Now the circumstances are present which seem to make possible a real joint breakthrough, that is, which offer us the chance of such a breakthrough. The level and problems of development in all Balkan countries and each one of them do not allow those countries to postpone any longer the process of coordination of and joining the efforts on the broader scale.

The experience of the entire regional cooperation in Europe confirms that every country finds a valuable support in multilateral cooperation within its immediate region. The climate of dialogue, negotiations, and coexistence, and particularly of furthering security and confidence in Europe consequently influences southern Europe too.

Under such circumstances, Yugoslav initiative, which has resulted from previous substantial exchanges of views with all our Balkan partners, has fallen on fertile ground. In this respect, in the way it has been created, this is a joint initiative.

In the statements they gave to your newspaper, my colleagues have vividly expressed reasons why such a meeting has not been held earlier and I would not like to repeat them. If we turn the delay we have had to date into a challenge to make good the time lost by greater readiness and flexibility, then we have found the right answer. Of course, we all have to be realistic and to know what is possible and feasible now, at this moment, and what should be set apart as future direction for the comprehensive cooperation of Balkan countries.

[Stajner] What do you expect from the forthcoming Belgrade meeting?

[Loncar] It is difficult to express that fully now. One must, however, have a realistic approach to possible results. The very fact that such a meeting at which all Balkan countries are represented for the first time is being held is at the same time confirmation of and stimulation to our readiness to try to jointly open a new page in the development of regional cooperation in the Balkans. This would therefore be the first result.

One is encouraged by the fact that all participants, both in their public statements and during intensive consultations, stressed their own and joint readiness to ensure success, that is, a productive outcome to the meeting through a constructive approach and orientation toward the "common needs and identical interests"—as the draft agenda says—in the development of multilateral cooperation.

We expect that the meeting will further advance the improved political climate on our peninsula that has made the meeting possible. We expect specific and realistic agreements on specific forms of cooperation in all spheres where this is now possible. I think that there is agreement about such advancement in a series of specific fields, just as there are ideas that demand time to mature. Having realized cooperation on the issues where it is possible, we are creating prerequisites for expanding

room for new points of contact. We can already say that there is a joint wish to ensure the continuity of the process we are opening, therefore an accord on meetings of foreign ministers, as well as other meetings at various levels would represent a very significant and encouraging result.

Finally, let us not disregard the fact that a positive and substantial political outcome of the meeting, an outcome resulting in action, will, in the new development of multilateral cooperation, make it possible for all the Balkan countries, and the Balkan region, to make a greater contribution and play a more noticeable role in solving regional and global problems.

[Stajner] This part of the world has often been described by such expressions as the "powder keg," "the appendage of Europe," and the like. What, in your opinion, has changed in the Balkans recently?

[Loncar] I think that at this moment in particular we need not burden ourselves with past ideas and terminology about the Balkans and on Balkan countries. We would like to be able to pave the road to a better future in a much easier way than would result from a debate on past experiences. Finally, let us see the new realities too.

Over an entire period—longer than ever before—peace has prevailed in the Balkans and in the whole of Europe and as a result security is now greater than at time in history. It is increasingly clear that the 21st century and the 3d millennium, which are at our door, require all people everywhere and at all times to participate more fully in the modern currents of international life, because without this there is no national development either.

There is no reason that the Balkan countries should particularly lag in this respect, as it is known that in this region ideas were born and enterprises carried out in antiquity, the middle ages, modern times, and the most recent postwar period which have paved new roads for everybody.

[Stajner] To what extent have the Balkans been integrated in Europe? To what extent is there present in the Balkans that which is universally considered under the idea of Europe? To what extent does the general situation in the Balkans influence the situation in Europe and how does the present European situation present influence the situation in the Balkans?

[Loncar] The Balkans are in Europe and there is no Europe without the Balkans. Everything that is happening in Europe is also happening in the Balkans and everything that is happening in the Balkans also has an impact on the remaining part of our common continent.

During the more recent, postwar times, Europe has been confronted with great divisions, which will unfortunately be of a lasting character. In such a Europe, nonaligned and neutral countries—which, according to their overall potential, are not a special force in itself—are and will be more and more of a significant factor of equal international cooperation, peace, and security in Europe.

At the same time, we are witnessing strong integrational processes in Europe which, all in all, have their deep justification and need on the broad international area and, as such, they are positive and needed by all peoples and countries of European continent. Unfortunately, such integrational processes often stop at the borders of the above-mentioned divisions.

All in all, we are witnessing strong contradictions which are faced by Europe in general and are even more drastically reflected in the Balkans.

This is why we say that all divisions, as well as all efforts toward detente and furthering confidence and security, are reflected on the Balkans through different positions and the participation of individual Balkan countries. On the other hand, the processes of regional cooperation have not advanced in the Balkans as a region, as they have in some other regions and parts of Europe. The forthcoming meeting is for the most part a result of the need to make up for this shortage.

We can say that the interest in furthering cooperation in the Balkans—which is in the interest of the whole of Europe—is more and more present on the entire continent. This is how we explain the very positive reactions and even the public support extended to our joint action.

[Stajner] What now stands in the way of better and more comprehensive cooperation among Balkan countries?

[Loncar] What is it that stands in the way of better and more comprehensive cooperation anywhere! The heritage of the past, different interests, unsolved problems and conflicts, divisions, different development levels and different geopolitical positions, and so on. In a word, everything that should be overcome and is gradually being overcome whenever one realizes that there are common interests and that it is only through mutual and multilateral cooperation that we can solve the vital questions of development. In this way we shall best create more and more favorable conditions for solving bilateral problems too.

[Stajner] How do you see the place and the role of our country in the Balkans, as well as in a broader international framework?

[Loncar] It is said that the foreign policy of every country begins at its borders. Likewise, the global vision of every country—and every country must nowadays look at the whole world, just as the whole world looks at every country—brings it back to its borders. It is not good if there is a split between the two, and such a split cannot be maintained for long.

Yugoslavia, a nonbloc, nonaligned, European, Mediterranean, and Balkan country, carries out the same policy in the Balkans, toward all its neighbors, in Europe, in the Mediterranean, and in the world. This is a policy of active peaceful coexistence, whose essential part is a policy of good neighborliness. On these lines, Yugoslavia strives to create the most constructive role in international relations.

We hope that the initiative for convening a meeting of foreign ministers of the Balkan countries and its being held in Belgrade will be seen as an expression of such a policy and role. In this connection I must repeat that nobody could do much alone without an equal interest and contribution of all the people in the Balkans. We can do much more jointly and in accord. In this respect, the meeting in Belgrade presents a challenge and a chance, as well as a responsibility that we all bear to ourselves and to others.

Radio Previews Ministerial Meeting

AU232029 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The Balkan countries' foreign ministers have arrived in Belgrade. They were met by Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, who will organize a festive reception tonight. The ministerial meeting will be held in the Sava Center in Belgrade tomorrow. The ministers of all six Balkan countries will meet in one place for the first time in the history of the Balkans to discuss possibilities for cooperation. Nedzad Leko examines some aspects of this meeting:

When Yugoslavia started the initiative to hold this meeting in April last year, the world was of the opinion that the very gathering of all the six ministers for the first time in the history of the Balkan people would mean success. This view took into account the fact the Balkans was more often a place for clashes rather than for agreements, and that a spectrum of unresolved bilateral problems still exists among the countries in this region.

But when all the countries agreed to attend the meeting, it became certain that, by so doing, they were assuming a certain responsibility for the meeting's success. The foreign ministers' duty is to open up fresh prospects and give political support to talks and agreements in the Balkans, as well as to the multilateral cooperation in the areas of general interest. True, some forms of cooperation among certain Balkan countries already exist, but they are nowhere near the degree which some other regional groupings in the world have attained. Considering the fact that we are neighbors, it is very discouraging that, for instance, every one of the Balkan countries has the countries of this jointly shared Balkan region at the bottom of the list of their trade partners. All this has resulted in the Balkans' serious lagging behind and divisions, at a time when integrational processes have made significant progress everywhere in the world, and regional gatherings have helped many countries to speed up their development. True, the difficult historical heritage was a serious obstacle to attempts for broader cooperation in the Balkans. This was made more difficult by the fact that, like nowhere else in the world there are countries here which either belong to the opposing military alliances, or are outside them. Perhaps this is the reason why the world is awaiting the Belgrade meeting with great interest and why Yugoslavia is paid respect for having enough political feeling to gather together at the right time, the foreign ministers of NATO member countries, Greece and Turkey, the Warsaw Pact countries, Bulgaria and Romania, Albania which is outside these blocs, and nonaligned Yugoslavia.

The mere fact that the ministers of all the Balkan countries are meeting in the same place for the first time in history is being described as a success in world diplomatic circles. However, the ministers will, of course, be more satisfied if their meeting is remembered for initiating joint thinking toward everything that could bring the Balkan countries closer together, toward their more fruitful cooperation, and the creation of opportunities so that the Balkans does not lag behind Europe in the future and becomes an equal and independent factor in European and world trends and relations. Conditions for something like this exist, and it is left to the Balkan countries to use the opportunity in Belgrade and start examining the brighter side of the history of this region.

Press Welcomes 'Historic Event'

LD241120 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1030 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 24 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav press today gives wide publicity to the Balkan ministerial meeting, noting that it has all chances of becoming a historic event.

The headlines indicate the degree of optimism with which the papers view the meeting which opened in Belgrade this morning. SLOBODNA DALMACIJA of Split describes it as an "event of hope," POLITIKA of Belgrade extends its best wishes "for a good start," VECERNJI LIST of Zagreb notes that it began "in an atmosphere of goodwill," while VJESNIK of Zagreb says that its "success is ensured."

The mere fact that the meeting is being held is a success in itself, notes VJESNIK and adds that the common readiness for dialogue on "common needs and concurrent interests" should result in a further improvement of the political climate in the Balkans, which made the meeting possible in the first place.

The daily says that the Belgrade meeting could also mark the beginning of a more fruitful regional cooperation in all areas which have so far linked the six states in bilateral relations.

BORBA of Belgrade writes that the event meets "all conditions for becoming historic," because it may lead to unprecedented cooperation in the region which—as one commentator put it—is, historically speaking, "more prone to explosive conflicts than gentlemanly agreements."

The daily sees as the basis for optimism "some significant shifts made over the past few months in the most complex areas," such as the abolition of the state of war between Greece and Albania, the Greek-Turkish summit, the Greek-Bulgarian declaration of friendship, the exchange of ambassadors between Bulgaria and Albania, the signing of a Yugoslav-Albanian agreement on cooperation in culture, science and education, etc.

VECERNJI LIST says that the meeting started in a favourable atmosphere and that, according to statements made by participants, all are ready to contribute to its success.

POLITIKA sees the Balkan ministerial meeting as a result of the favourable climate recently predominating in the region owing to the efforts of all six Balkan states.

Noting that it would be overambitious to expect of the first Balkan meeting to tackle major problems in the peninsula, the daily maintains that it could help make progress in those fields where cooperation is possible and advance from the general to the concrete, and from less to more complex questions.

POLITIKA lists the less complex questions as the extension of economic, scientific, technical and traffic ties, and the more complex ones as the establishment in the Balkans of a zone free of nuclear and chemcial weapons and the reduction of conventional arms in the region.

Sundic Comments on Shultz Visit to Moscow

LD232053 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Milika Sundic commentary]

[Text] The 2-day visit by Shultz to Moscow confirmed once again that Soviet-U.S. relations are moving in a positive direction and that on both sides there is a readiness to overcome the large differences that divide them. As at the time of the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting at the end of last year in Washington, this time also the subject most discussed was that of regional problems, in the first place Afghanistan and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country, then the problem of reducing nuclear missiles, and bilateral relations. It is already certain that Reagan will, at the end of May or the beginning of June, visit Moscow, when, if everything goes as it should, an agreement will be signed on the 50-percent reduction of strategic nuclear missiles.

In Geneva, where negotiations on the reduction of strategic nuclear missiles are taking place it looks as though a certain hold-up has occurred, but to judge by what Shultz and Shevardnadze said at separate press conferences in Moscow, the impression is gained that this hold-up will be overcome. As was the case when stances were being coordinated on the first Soviet-U.S. missile agreement, this time as well the greatest headache for the negotiators is the problem of the very complicated on-site verification. However, it is nevertheless believed that this too will be overcome if the process for thawing in the relations between the two countries does not take on some unwanted characteristics.

Also discussed in Moscow was the reduction of conventional armaments and the limitation or complete banning of nuclear tests and chemical weapons. A significant advance was made in everything, it seems, except regional problems, where the stances of the two sides remain for the most part unchanged. It is true that the Soviet readiness to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan has contributed to the softening of some U.S. stances, which will probably result in the Americans themselves making their own contribution to the solving of the Afghan problem by trying to influence Pakistan to involve itself in that direction.

What is particularly important, and is connected with the just finished visit by Shultz to Moscow, is the fact that in both countries a favorable climate is being created in connection with the improvement of Soviet-U.S. relations. It seems that it has become clear to the Americans that Moscow is more interested than ever in good and friendly relations with the West and that the internal processes in the USSR will move in the direction of an increasingly great democratization of Soviet society.

Arising from the results of Shultz's visit to Moscow is the fact that everything will be done to ensure that the agreement on the reduction of strategic nuclear missiles is ready by the end of May, that is that Reagan's visit to Moscow is not postponed or cancelled, even if this is not achieved. However, we should nevertheless believe that this last possibility will not happen, that the negotiations on reducing strategic missiles will be finished on time. In any case we are witnessing important changes in relations between the superpowers, and their increasingly positive influence on overall international relations and in particular on East-West relations. After all, the very fact that the time has arrived when negotiations can take place in peace can be considered as a solid basis for ensuring that a hold-up will not occur in attempts to bring the world closer to permanent and stable peace, for which the great powers are the most responsible.

Krsko Nuclear Power Plant Shuts Down

LD231946 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1904 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Krsko, 23 Feb (TANJUG)—The Krsko nuclear power station unexpectedly automatically shut itself

down today. The shutdown was caused by the pumps in the river Sava which draw water for cooling in the power station's system. Teams working at the power station immediately discovered the error. The Pumps had stopped because the contacts of the bimetallic shielding of their engine were worn out. A check showed that the stopping of the inflow of water did not effect the correct operation of the power station. This error is in fact a well-known one since it is the weak point in the structure of the pumping system of the Krsko nuclear power station. Work to repair the breakdown at the power station is underway.